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Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.

VOL. LXV. No. 3,360. | SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1885. | PRICE 6D. BY POST 6½D.

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THE

EMPIRE OF THE HITTITES,

BY

WM. WRIGHT, D.D.

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A Hittite Map by Col. Sir CHARLES WILSON, F.R.S., and Capt. CONDER, R.E.;

And a complete set of Hittite Inscriptions by W. H. RYLANDS, F.S.A.

Letter from the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

I thank you very much for your kind gift. The first announcement of the work you have produced filled me with a lively interest, for it belonged to a region on the borders of which I have long, though but intermittently, laboured. Your account of the local extension of Hittite influence is in complete comformity with the idea which conceives them as within the circle of possible Trojan alliances. I may add to the suggestion which I first published, in fear and trembling, that the manner of the mention in Homer is completely in accord with your doctrines as to the greatness of the Hittites. (1.) Because the slaughter of their chief seems to be the crowning exploit that had been performed by the son of Achilles. "I will not," says Odusseus, "name all that he slew, but only the hero Eurupulos." (2.) Because the Keteioi are named without epithet, description, or indication, which accords with the idea of their being a famous and well-known race. The gradual building up of primitive history is, in my eyes, to the full as interesting and as fruitful a process as the extension of physical sciences, which attracts a thousand-fold more attention.

I remain, Rev. and dear Sir,
Faithfully yours,
W. E. GLADSTONE.

Captain C. R. Conder in the "Contemporary Review."

"The suggestion that the curious Syrian hieroglyphics, found at Hamath and Aleppo, and farther north at Carchemish, and in various parts of Asia Minor, are of Hittite origin, was first hazarded by Dr. Wright, and was independently advocated by Prof. Sayce in 1880. . . . An interesting and valuable work, called 'The Empire of the Hittites,' has just been published by Dr. Wright. In it the reader will find summarised all the information already collected which is diffused through the works of De Rongé, Chabas, G. Smith, Brugsch, Mariette, and in the later publications of Prof. Sayce and Mr. Rylands. . . . To the plates already published by the Biblical Archæological Society, Dr. Wright adds a long text by Prof. Ramsay, and several other valuable drawings; and he has, moreover, written a most graphic account of his expedition to Hamath in 1872, when he succeeded, where all had failed, in getting a true copy of the famous inscribed stones here found by Burckhardt early in the century. . . . The careful collection of authentic information renders Dr. Wright's work a valuable contribution to Oriental Archæology."

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—M. de Freycinet having failed to construct a Ministry, the task was accepted by M. Constans, Minister of the Interior under Gambetta, who had no better success. M. Brisson, President of the Chamber, at length was prevailed on to undertake the task, and his Ministry was gazetted on Tuesday:—

"M. Brisson, President of the Council and Minister of Justice; M. de Freycinet, Foreign Affairs; M. Allain Targé, Interior; M. Clamageran, Finance; M. Goblet, Public Instruction; General Campenon, War; M. Sadi Carnot, Public Works; M. Pierre Legrand, Agriculture; M. Hervé-Mangon, Commerce; M. Sarrien, Posts and Telegraphs; Admiral Galiber, Marine."

The new Premier in his Ministerial declaration read in the Chamber on Tuesday, thus referred to the relations of France and China:—"We shall ask from China respect for our rights resulting from treaties and as recognised by herself in the Convention of the 11th of May, 1884; happy if negotiations suffice to attain that object, but resolved to prosecute it by arms if necessary. We have decided also not to modify the character of the expedition without the consent of Parliament. The feeling of what we owe to our heroic military and naval troops and to their chiefs will, moreover, easily make us unanimous." This statement was followed by a demand for a war credit of 150,000,000f., which was eventually granted by 373 to 92 votes. It was not until M. Brisson had asked the Chamber to vote the war credit of 150,000,000f. and until the Committee had retired to deliberate, that news came that peace had been concluded.

According to the *Times* correspondent at Paris, the preliminaries of peace were signed on Sunday by M. Billot and Mr. Campbell, and the results of the negotiations continued to be communicated to M. Ferry, who transmitted them to M. Grévy, but evidently calculated his time in such a way that the new Minister should have read the message to Parliament without knowing that the preliminaries of peace had been signed.

The preliminaries of peace, according to the Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, stipulate as follows:—

"Hostilities to cease on April 10. The places near the Delta, now occupied by Chinese troops, will be evacuated by them on April 20, and the other positions will be left by degrees. The French will continue their right of searching neutral vessels and of blockading the rice ports until the signature of the definitive treaty. France will continue to occupy Formosa and the Pescadores. It is also affirmed that an indemnity for those Frenchmen who were wounded at Bac-Le is included."

In the course of Wednesday's sitting of the Financial Committee of the Senate, M. de Freycinet, Minister for Foreign Affairs, said that preliminaries of peace had practically been concluded with China. Before, however, giving effect to the recent negotiations, he had been anxious to learn the opinion of the Chinese Government. He had, consequently, telegraphed to Pekin, and could not formally confirm the conclusion of peace until the receipt of the reply from China. The Senate afterwards agreed to the remaining 150,000,000 francs of the credit for the operations in Tonquin, and subsequently adjourned till May 4.

It is expected in Paris that the adjournment of the Chambers will delay the issue of the Egyptian Loan. The British Government is said to be sounding the Powers with the object of ascertaining whether it would not be possible to issue the loan without awaiting the formal ratification of the Financial Convention by the different Parliaments, but it is not believed in the French capital that the Powers will assent to this course.

A Church Conference was opened in Paris on Thursday, under the presidency of Bishop Titcomb.

According to a statement made by M. Raynal, late Minister of Public Works, a large outlay will shortly be made on the canals and harbours of France, following out the financial scheme of M. de Freycinet. The sum to be expended is 879,000,000f., of which 713,000,000f. are for canals, 100,000,000f. for ports and harbours, and 66,000,000f. for rivers, and in addition to this amount there has been a supplementary grant of 100,000,000f. for the ports and 30,000,000f. for the canals. Havre is to have 100,000,000f. spent upon harbour works and Bordeaux 20,000,000f. The State proposes to borrow upon annuities, commencing in 1887, and to be paid off in 10, 15, and 20 years.

ITALY.—The *Daily News* correspondent at Rome says that though the organs of the Vatican are silent on the subject, it is currently reported that the Pope is in a very enfeebled state of health. He is said to be suffering from a painful disorder, and to be subject to fainting fits. On Easter Sunday he was unable to say mass and administer the Communion to the ladies of the Roman nobility, and a reception of pilgrims which he was to have held on Tuesday had to be postponed.

GERMANY.—A White-book on the affairs of the Congo has been presented to the Reichstag. It contains a record of the negotiations and events which preceded the West African Conference in Berlin, starting from the 6th of March, 1884. Among the papers is a despatch dated the 17th of April, 1884, from Count Hatzfeldt, the German Foreign Secretary, to Prince Hohenlohe, the Ambassador in Paris, in which it was recommended that in view of the position of affairs created by the Anglo-Portuguese Treaty the principles of solidarity and equal rights should be asserted which had ruled in the settlement of politico-economic questions in Eastern Asia. The White-book closes with the final agreement signed by the delegates to the Conference.

RUSSIA.—The latest experiment in the organisation of industry comes from Russia, where the employés at the large engineering works belonging to the firm of Struve and Co. have recently been planted in a complete settlement somewhat like Pullman City in the States. The workmen, of whom there are between 3,500 and 4,000, are all lodged in small cottages, most of which are made to accommodate two families only; while the public institutions of the colony include a refectory, a laundry, a hospital, a benefit society, a technical school, and a co-operative store. The employers contribute handsomely to the benefit society, but charity in any other form is quite unknown in the place, and the co-operative society pays a flourishing dividend. It would be curious if Russia, which is a survival of the past in its village communities of an agricultural type, were also to be a pioneer of the future in village communities of an industrial type.

BELGIUM.—As the Royal *cortége* was on its way to the Brussels Cathedral on Thursday morning to attend the *Te Deum* in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of the King of the Belgians, a man rushed at the carriage in which the Crown Prince Rudolph and the Count and Countess of Flanders were seated and broke one of the windows. The man, who was immediately secured, is believed to be insane.

TURKEY.—At Constantinople an official communication has been made which alludes to the possible issue of a fresh incendiary proclamation by "the false Mahdi" against the Ottoman domination. In that case—the communication goes on to say—the Arabs, equally with all other Mussulmans, will treat this new appeal made by fanaticism and barbarism with the same profound contempt as previous incitements of a similar character. The proclamation in question, therefore, will produce no effect on the minds of the Mussulman population, who regard the Soudanese agitator as nothing but an impostor and a robber chief of the worst kind.

EGYPT.—On Monday the Coldstreams, the Australians, and a battery of artillery under General Fremantle, marched to the first station, five miles out towards Handoub, where they formed a zareba to protect the works. On Wednesday the Coldstreams marched to Handoub, proceeding from there to Otao and Tambuk. From these places there is a gradual rise to Esaibil, situate on a lofty plateau 2,300ft. high, fifty miles from Souakim, where it is at present proposed to pass the summer. Along the railway line a four-inch pipe will be laid with forcing engines for a fresh supply of condensed water. It is hoped to work the line up to Handoub in a week. Ten miles of railway plant have been landed, and ten more are in vessels lying in the harbour. An armour-plated train will also be used for the protection of the railway. It had been feared that there would be trouble with the navvies, who were threatening to strike, but the dispute was arranged, and on Monday by the combined efforts of the navvies and gangs of coolies, a mile and a half of line was laid. A few Arabs were seen, who fired on the escort at a long distance, but when the scouts advanced upon them they disappeared.

A spy who has returned from Erkowit reports that Osman Digna's followers are openly deserting him, and that Osman Digna himself, with 900 followers, is at Shakateb, a strong position between Sinkat and Erkowit. Osman's son, a boy of ten, was sent by his father to encourage the Arabs in attacking the convoys on the 24th and 25th ult., and was shot in the attack on the Coldstreams and Marines.

Writing on the 7th ult. from Korti, the *Daily Telegraph* correspondent says that every day brings fresh disclosures respecting General Gordon, his correspondence with the Government, and the situation in Khartoum. General Gordon's diaries were addressed to his sister, with an addendum, apparently an afterthought, that if the Foreign Office wished for them they should be sent there, and a note that if the contents were ever published the work should be pruned. Before the diaries were sent off to England much of their contents were read by several officers at Korti:—

"The diaries give the story of the siege, and, in addition, are replete with quaint and quietly humorous observations upon all subjects. It is striking to hear a characteristically cool diplomat, as Sir C. Wilson, among scores of others say that: 'Every line of Gordon's should be published and placed in the hands of the youth of England, that the rising generation may know what a great patriot is.' Gordon preserved every line and despatch he received from Sir E. Baring, and these, believing his end was near, he sent out of Khartoum with Khasm el Mous. It was Gordon's intention and desire that these also should see the light, as his contention was they proved his case against the British Government. Referring to Sir E. Baring, who to him represented the Government, Gordon wrote in his diary: 'Oh, Evelyn, Evelyn, I would forgive you all your iniquities if I could see you bumping across the Korosko desert upon a camel.' If the relatives or anybody in Gordon's interest desires to employ legal means to compel the publication of all his papers, I am authorised by an old and warm friend of his to put him down for £1,000 subscription towards law expenses."

There is also some new information of the fall of Omdurman, between which and the river it now appears that the Mahdi's forces had already interposed at the beginning of November, which news, though known to the Government, was not allowed to transpire at the time:—

"The fort was built before Gordon's arrival, and was about 1,000 yards inland. The rebels dug trenches around the fort, completely isolating it, and the only way by which Gordon could communicate with his people after that date was by signals. For two months the besieged garrison held out, falling into the Mahdi's hands after he had advanced his lines by sap to within twenty yards of the fort. This occurred on January 1 or 2, 1885."

The Greek to whom General Gordon intrusted his diaries complains bitterly of Sir C. Wilson's unnecessary five days' delay at Metammeh before starting for Khartoum, and declares that if he had started at once upon reaching Metammeh he would have arrived in time to save General Gordon.

Faragh Pasha had been an officer in one of the black Egyptian regiments which took part in the Abyssinian expedition, during which he distinguished himself, and was afterwards exiled to the Soudan by Arabi Pasha.

INDIA.—The grand durbar in honour of the Ameer's visit was held at Rawul Pindi on Wednesday afternoon, and was brilliant and impressive. After the offering of presents, the Ameer said he was obliged for the favours bestowed upon him by the Queen and the Viceroy, and in return would render every possible service. The Afghan nation, he added, would stand side by side with the British. At the conclusion of Abdur Rahman's speech, the Viceroy presented him with a sword of honour, and the Ameer, in acknowledging the gift, said that he hoped to strike with it any enemy of the British.

The railway plant for the military line through the Bolan Pass to Quetta, which is to be at once commenced, has been to a great extent stored in India for some years. When the Quetta railway extension was originally projected rails and sleepers were collected for the purpose. Some miles of these rails were subsequently used elsewhere, but the store has lately been replenished by the despatch of material from England. The hired transport *Duke of Devonshire*, on proceeding to Souakim with troops six weeks ago, took out many tons of flange rails, which, after debarking her troops, she conveyed to Bombay. Several ships going out to India within the last two months have had tonnage of metal rails, and it is understood that sufficient plant has now been collected for the construction of the projected line.

CANADA.—Riel's rebellion (according to the American correspondent of the *Times*) is due to the grievances caused by the Dominion Government's land surveyors and others, in interfering with the landed rights claimed by the half-breed settlers, as formulated in the following Bill of Rights, adopted by the half-breeds at a public meeting in St. Laurent last autumn:—"They first ask for the subdivision into provinces of the North-West Territory; secondly, that the half-breeds may receive the same grants and other advantages as the Manitoba half-breeds; thirdly, that land patents may be issued at once to the colonists in possession; fourthly, for the sale of half a million acres of the Dominion lands, the proceeds to be applied to the establishment in the half-breed settlement of schools, hospitals, and similar institutions, and also for the equipment of the poorer half-breeds with seed-grain and implements; fifthly, for the reservation of 100 townships of the swamp lands for distribution among the children of half-breeds during the next 120 years; sixthly, for the grant of at least 1,000 dols. for the maintenance of an institution, to be conducted by nuns, in each half-breed settlement; and seventhly, for a better provision for the support of the Indians. Riel has formed a Provisional Government for the North-West Territory, with himself as President, and Gabriel Dumas as commander-in-chief of the forces, and a board of five councillors."

The rebels are threatening Humboldt, 120 miles north of Qu'Appelle and about half-way to Prince Albert. The officer commanding at Humboldt has telegraphed that he will abandon the post unless assistance be at once sent. The roads thither, however, are heavy from the effects of the winter breaking up. General Middleton started on Sunday on his advance from Fort Qu'Appelle, fifteen miles from the railway, to the Touchwood Hills, twenty-five miles further northward; 180 teams, with guards, moved out, the 19th Rifles following.

General Terry, commanding the American troops, has instructed the commandants of all the frontier posts to maintain a look-out for rebels crossing into the United States. If rebels come they are to be deprived of their arms and horses, and returned across the border. If they come as refugees they are to be kept in confinement.

The Canadian correspondent of the New York *Churchman* writes:—

"The 'Reformed Episcopal' Church in Toronto, whose late incumbent, the Rev. Mr. Bilkley, was some months ago ordained to the diaconate of Bishop Sweatman, has been purchased as the new parish church of St. Barnabas, lately separated from the parish of St. Anne's. A similar fate has also befallen the Cumminsite church in St. Thomas, Ontario, now used as an Anglican schoolhouse; and at Hamilton recently the minister there stationed joined us. The sudden collapse of the Cumminsite sect throughout Canada, I am informed, has come about in this wise:—Some time last year a wealthy lay patron of the body in Montreal, laudably desirous of distinguishing himself, proposed to 'Bishop' Ussher that he (the wealthy lay patron) should be accorded full discretionary power to compile a new Prayer-book, which very modest proposal not being very acceptable to Dr. Ussher, a serious split ensued, which seems to have completely demoralised the infant schism. Probably we have heard about the last of the 'Reformed Episcopal Church, otherwise known as the Reformed Church of England' in Canada."

The Bill for the expulsion of Jesuits from Jersey was brought up for discussion before the States Assembly on Tuesday afternoon. The Bill was introduced originally about four years ago, when the Jesuits were being driven from France, and many were expected to take refuge in Jersey. It could not be brought up for discussion before its turn, and meanwhile that confraternity arrived in large numbers. Since then they have acquired a large amount of property where they are at present located, and they are carrying on their work of instruction at their College of St. Louis. The Bill, which has been amended since its introduction, sought to make its provisions retrospective. It also provided for the inspection of this and all other establishments of religious orders whose members were bound by vows. There was much opposition in the Assembly to the Bill, and after a warm and long discussion the preamble of the Bill was thrown out, and the measure consequently fell through. Considerable opposition was raised to the Bill outside the States Assembly, it being urged that the body of Jesuits are not in any way interfering with the interests of the inhabitants, either politically or religiously, and that their presence is of great pecuniary benefit to the island.

The following are the resolutions of the Bishops of New South Wales, with regard to the celebration of marriages, passed at Sydney, October 8th, 1884:—

"I. That the time within which marriages are celebrated be from sunrise to 8 p.m. (the Bishop of Goulburn dissenting).

"I. That no marriage be celebrated otherwise than in a church or accustomed place of public worship, except when the parties concerned reside more than *four* miles from such church or place of public worship, or when special permission shall have been granted by the Bishop of the diocese; provided that in urgent cases when reference to the Bishop is practically impossible, the clergyman shall act on his discretion, and forthwith report the circumstances to the Bishop.

"III. That no marriage be celebrated by the clergy otherwise than after the publication of banns or by a licence issued or sanctioned by the Bishop, and that no more than a moderate fee should be charged for marriage licences.

"IV. That it is desirable that the clergy of the several dioceses be informed—

"(1) That the law of the Church of England prohibits marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

"(2) That, although such marriages are recognised by the law of the colony, this law imposes no duty or obligation upon the clergy with regard thereto, each denomination being left free to observe its own discipline in this matter.

"(3) That the Bishops are accordingly of opinion that no such marriages should be celebrated by the clergy.

"V. That it is desirable that the clergy be informed of the unanimous opinion of the Bishops, that, after a divorce has been pronounced, the party who has been pronounced guilty of infidelity to the marriage vow by the Court shall not be permitted to be remarried according to the rites of the Church of England."

RAWUL PINDI.

The following account of Rawul Pindi will probably be read with much interest at this time, when thoughts of Englishmen are centred upon the meeting at that place between our Viceroy (Lord Dufferin) and the Ameer of Afghanistan. Rawul Pindi, the head of the district which bears that name, is a very old place, with little pretensions to architectural beauty. In the mystic ages of Indian history it was called Futteh-poor Baari. In A.D. 995 Sultan Mahmoud Ghuznawee presented it to the Gukhkurs, and it was for some time the asylum of Shah Shoojah and his brother. A battle fought by the Gukhkurs, under their famous leader, Magurrub Khan, on the site of the present native infantry lines, and the surrender of the Sikh army in 1849 to General Gilbert are the events which give it local and historical interest. When the Sikh army surrendered at this place a prisoner exclaimed, "To-day Maharajah Runjeet Singh has died." As the Maharajah had died years before, of course the man's meaning was that the great Sikh Empire, which he had formed, had passed into other hands. The district is situated on the southern slope of the north-west extremity of the Himalayas, is bounded on two sides by the rivers Indus and Jhelum, contains large mountain tracts, with rich valleys, traversed by many a mountain torrent, and is inhabited by fine, hardy races, chiefly Mohammedans. During June and the first half of July the heat cannot be exceeded in any part of India, but there are several months of cold weather. Snow falls about once in ten years; the last occasion was in February, 1883. With the exception of 1879-80, the cantonments at Rawul Pindi have always been considered the healthiest station in India for British troops, and cholera—in an epidemic form—has never been known. Pneumonia and dysentery are the two most fatal diseases, and this is owing to the rapid changes in temperature. In February the east wind blows steadily off the snowy ranges. During the cold season—that is, from October 15 to April 15—the garrison consists of five batteries of artillery, one regiment of British cavalry, two regiments of British infantry, two regiments of native infantry, one of native cavalry, and a company of sappers. The arsenal is also an important one. The whole is under the command of a brigadier-general, and the headquarters of the general of division are also at Rawul Pindi. In 1880, the Punjaub Northern State Railway was opened as far as Rawul Pindi, and has since been extended to Peshawur and towards Kohat. There is a large civil population, European, native, and Emesian, but most of these and a large part of the military force are quartered in the adjacent hills during the summer. Despite its excellent climate and salubrity, Rawul Pindi is not a favourite station with either officers or men, for there is no large game, and very little sport of any kind in the district. To those, however, who have an eye for the beautiful, the absence of sport is more than compensated for by the magnificent scenery. Close around Pindi the country is rugged and bare, and intersected by numerous ravines, but in the distance are to be seen the majestic Himalayas towering towards the sky. The view from the Fort is a grand one; and the eye feasts with delight upon the everlasting snows lighted up by the rays of the rising or setting sun. The chief points of interest in the district are:—1. The sanatorium of Murree and the adjoining gullies, about forty miles distant by road. Here the sick and weakly men of all garrisons north of Lahore are billeted for the summer. In the winter it is held by a small depôt of British soldiers. 2. Nurpur, a village at the foot of the Hazara Mountains, where a yearly fair is held. It contains the tomb of Shah Latif, which is visited yearly by thousands of pilgrims from Peshawur and the surrounding country. 3. The Sikh Fort at Sukko, noted as the place where Mrs. George Lawrence and other ladies were kept prisoners in 1848-49. 4. Janika-Sang, the native way of pronouncing "John Nicholson," who near this spot stormed a Sikh fort in 1848 with a hastily raised levy of Zemindars. A monument has been erected here to the memory of the gallant general. 5. The Margulla Pass (close to the foregoing), at which there is a remarkable stone pavement, said to have been made by the Emperor Aranzeb. The inscription on the stone slab states that it was made in the year Hijree 1083 (A.D. 1678). 6. Hussan Abdul, the place where the Viceroy and the Ameer are to meet. The village is in the centre of a vast plain, and is often the site selected for a camp of exercise. It contains the celebrated pilgrim's shrine, devoted to the memory of Hussan Abdul (Hussan, the mad, or inspired). The legend is that the hand of Nanac, founder of the Sikh religion, is preserved at this place.

IRELAND.

The Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince Albert Victor, attended by Lady Emily Kingscote, Lord Suffield, Lieutenant-General Sir Dighton Probyn, Colonel A. Ellis, Mr. A. Cockerell, and Mr. Knollys, left London on Tuesday evening on their visit to Ireland. The whole distance of 265 miles from Euston to Holyhead was accomplished in six hours, including stoppages at Rugby and Crewe, and the Royal party went on board the *Osborne* at a quarter past twelve o'clock. On Wednesday morning early the *Osborne* left Holyhead for Kingstown, where their Royal Highnesses had an enthusiastic welcome. Replying to an address from the Town Commissioners, the Prince said he hoped this would not be the last visit they would pay to a country where they had always been welcomed with kindness and hospitality. On arriving by train in Dublin their Royal Highnesses were greeted enthusiastically by a considerable crowd at the station, and an address was presented by the Dublin Chamber of Commerce. The Prince, in reply, said he would convey to the Queen their expressions of devotion and attachment. The furtherance of the welfare of all classes, his Royal Highness added, was an object dear to him, and he trusted that the efforts of the Commission on the Dwellings of the Poor would tend to their improvement. The kindness with which the citizens had received him encouraged him to look forward to his visit to a country where courtesy and hospitality were the characteristics of the people. The Royal party were then driven through the decorated streets to Dublin Castle, being warmly cheered by the enormous crowds of people who had assembled, nothing occurring to mar the cordiality of the reception. In the afternoon the Prince and Princess visited the show of the Royal Dublin Agricultural Society, where his Royal Highness replied to another address. In the evening there were illuminations and fireworks, and an attempt to provoke a disturbance near the Mansion House.

The Prince of Wales and Prince Albert Victor, accompanied by four gentlemen, visited some of the worst parts of Dublin for the purpose of inspecting the dwellings of the poor, by whom he was welcomed with satisfaction and delight. His Royal Highness next went to see the improved artisans' dwellings. In the afternoon the Prince held a Levée, at which there was a very crowded attendance, the Princess paying a visit to the Alexandra College, which has been established for the higher education of young ladies. In the evening the Princess held a Drawing-Room at the Castle. The attendance was extremely numerous, upwards of 800 ladies being presented. Although commencing at nine o'clock, when there was a large attendance, the difficulties of setting down were such that the string of carriages waiting their turn to approach the Castle extended from Cork-hill all along the quays and Westmoreland-street, to College-green, and the presentations were not completed before midnight. The toilettes of the ladies to be presented were of the most costly description, the display of jewels in St. Patrick's Hall being simply dazzling.

The following order, settling, for the first time, the question of precedence between the Protestant and Roman Catholic Archbishops and Bishops in Ireland, was published in the *Dublin Gazette*:—"Victoria R. Her Majesty, having been pleased to approve of a rule of precedence applicable to Ireland, by which for the future all Prelates of the Protestant Episcopalian Church in Ireland are to have precedence, as hereafter set forth, we do hereby order and direct that all Archbishops of the Protestant Episcopalian Church and all Roman Catholic Archbishops in Ireland are to have in Ireland the precedence which belonged to Archbishops of the Established Church of Ireland before the passing of the Irish Church Act, 1869, and are to take rank *inter se* according to the dates of consecration as Archbishop or translation as the case may be, the Primates of both Churches having prior precedence among such Archbishops. We do further order and direct that the Archbishops of the Protestant Episcopalian Church in Ireland, and all Roman Catholic Bishops in Ireland, are to have in Ireland the precedence which belonged to Bishops of the Established Church of Ireland before the passing of the Irish Church Act of 1869, and to take rank *inter se* according to the dates of consecration, and we also declare that the foregoing rules are not in any way to interfere with the rights of precedence secured to the Archbishops and Bishops of the late Established Church of Ireland by the 13th section of the said Act.—SPENCER."

The death of Lord Cairns has fallen as a heavy blow to the Conservative party in Ireland as elsewhere. His loss is personal to the University of Dublin, of which he was Chancellor. The Rev. Dr. Stubbs, preaching in the college chapel on Good Friday, spoke of his brilliant career as an undergraduate, and the services he rendered in later life to the University :—

"The last act of his political life was a warm-hearted and successful defence of the interests of this college. He did more for us on this occasion than we could have either expected or have hoped, and I may add that the resources of his great legal knowledge and political experience were ever in readiness when his guidance was sought by the heads of this college. But it is more pleasing to-day to consider his character as that of a sincere and humble Christian, for, although some may not agree with him in the views he entertained as to Church matters, no one will, I believe, hesitate to admit his earnestness in what he regarded as the cause of Christ. One of his last public acts was to preside at a meeting of the Church Missionary Society, and in missionary work in general he took a deep interest."

Twelve meetings of the National League have been arranged for Sunday next in different parts of Ireland, which will be addressed by members of Parliament. At Kanturk, co. Cork, by Messrs. O'Brien and Deasy; at Fethard, co. Tipperary, by Messrs. Mayne and John O'Connor; at Dundalk, co. Louth, by Messrs. William Redmond and Small; at Dundrum, co. Dublin, by Mr. Harrington; at Kilkieran, co. Galway, by Mr. P. J. Power; at Castlereagh, co. Roscommon, by Mr. O'Kelly; and at Kilmallock, by Mr. Leamy.

Mr. George Perry, of Formla, near Ennis, was fired at on Monday afternoon, within 100 yards of the lodge gate of New Grove, the residence of his brother-in-law, Mr. Thomas Brady Brown, who owns the town of Tulla. He was driving his outside car, on which two workmen were seated, and was walking slowly up a hill, when two shots were fired at him from behind the wall, 4ft. high, inclosing a plantation close at hand. He fortunately was not hit, and with great courage he jumped off the car, and leaping over the wall saw a young man named Conheady running away. He called him by his name, and the occurrence being immediately reported to the police Conheady was arrested. He is the son of a tenant farmer and poor-law guardian, who has recently been evicted from a house in Tulla.

A remarkable eviction took place on Wednesday in the county Limerick, upon the estate of Woodcliffe, a property for generations in the possession of the Taylor family. Some years ago the owner got into financial difficulties, and borrowed some money, which, not being paid, the creditors succeeded in having the interest of the property put up for sale in the Encumbered Estates Court. The offers made to purchase the property were considered too low, and were declined by the Court, who in the meantime allowed the Taylors to remain in possession nominally as caretakers of the estate. The land agitation diminished the chance of obtaining anything like the value, and in the end the Court accepted the offer of a Mr. M'Namara, of Limerick, for the property, he being accordingly declared the purchaser at a sum of £5,000. Mr. Taylor refused to give up possession. To prevent a breach of the peace the police force which accompanied the sheriff were prepared for any emergency that might arise. When the constabulary, with the sheriff, arrived, they found the doors and windows barricaded, and an entrance had to be effected by force. Ultimately the family were evicted, and bailiffs were put in possession.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The House met after the Easter holidays. There was but a slender attendance of members; but the galleries appropriated to Peers and distinguished strangers were crowded. At the conclusion of question time, Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE asked whether the Government had any information to communicate as to the negotiations with Russia and the reported events on the Afghan frontier. The substance of the Premier's reply is given in another column.

The House afterwards went into Committee of Supply, and was engaged until a late hour on the Civil Service Estimates Class 1 (Public Works and Buildings). On the vote of £10,000 for the new War Office and Admiralty, there was a lor[illegible]discussion, commenced by Mr. BERESFORD-HOP[illegible] severely criticised the design, and moved a reduction of the vote. Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE defended the design, and eulogised specially the internal arrangements. Sir R. PEEL, Mr. GORST, and Mr. RYLANDS urged that we had other uses for our money at the present moment. Mr. BROADHURST supported the vote mainly on account of the employment it would afford to the unemployed unskilled labour. Mr. ARNOLD suggested a postponement until further information as to the design could be laid before the House; and Mr. W. H. SMITH strongly urged that residences for the Ministers should be included in the estimate. Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE dwelt on the advantage of concentrating the various departments of the Admiralty and War Office, and pointed out that a considerable saving would be effected, and, in reply to Mr. W. H. SMITH and Lord J. MANNERS, intimated that the Government would consider the desirability of including residences. In the end the vote was carried by 45 to 26, and several other votes were agreed to.

On the Chairman leaving the chair, Sir RICHARD CROSS asked whether any further information had been received as to events on the Afghan frontier. Mr. GLADSTONE said that a telegram had been received from Sir Peter Lumsden which to some extent qualified his statement that no advance had been made by the Afghans. It was to the effect that when the Russians threatened an attack on the position of the Afghans, the latter threw out vedettes and gradually strengthened their position on the other side of the river, until the whole bulk of the force was transferred across the river. This, in Sir Peter Lumsden's opinion, hardly constituted an advance so much as an attempt to improve their military position.

On the second reading of the Egyptian Loan Bill being moved, Sir RICHARD CROSS protested against the course pursued in hurrying the Bill through; and Mr. GLADSTONE, who objected to any discussion at the present stage, contended that any further argument should be deferred until the Bill was considered in Committee. Mr. SCLATER-BOOTH wished to know the position of the matter as regards the action of the foreign Powers; and, in reply to Mr. A. O'CONNOR, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that the House having approved of the Convention, the Egpytian Government had been enabled to arrange its financial matters. Baron DE WORMS thought that more information should be given with regard to the action of the other Powers; and after some further discussion the Bill was read a second time. Some other business was disposed of, and the House was counted out at ten minutes to one o'clock.

A telegram from Queen Victoria to Mrs. Grant has been received, expressing sympathy with her and asking for information as to the health of the General. The following reply was forwarded by Mr. F. D. Grant:—"Mrs. Grant thanks the Queen for her sympathy, and directs me to say that the General is no better."

Several of the Roman Catholic Bishops, including Archbishop Croke and Bishop Connelly, who was voted second, or dignior, for the Archbishopric of Dublin, have left Ireland for Rome. Dr. Walsh, elected dignissimus, started yesterday. It is stated in Catholic circles that the Pope will himself select the new Archbishop. All the Bishops will reach Rome about the 20th inst.; but the Primate, Dr. M'Gettigan, is not sufficiently recovered to undertake the journey.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

Lord Salisbury will arrive at Wynnstay, Ruabon, on Monday, the 20th inst., on a visit to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, M.P., where he will remain for some days. His Lordship has consented to open a new Conservative club at Wrexham on the 21st inst., and on the following day he will visit Welshpool for the purpose of meeting the members of the Montgomeryshire Constitutional Association.

Lord Randolph Churchill, after an absence from England of four months, arrived at Charing-cross Station from India on Tuesday morning, and was met by several friends. His Lordship appeared to be in excellent health, and in the afternoon visited the Carlton Club.

Sir Spencer Maryon-Wilson, who recently resigned the position of President of the Woolwich Conservative Association because of its support of the candidature of Mr. E. Hughes, has consented to accept the presidency of the newly-formed Conservative club.

The Press Association has issued a list of candidates for the various constituencies of Great Britain (as proposed by the Redistribution Bill) brought up to Saturday last. From this it appears that of the 443 constituencies into which England will be divided 158 are provided with candidates of both parties—93 with Liberal candidates only, 81 with Conservatives only, and 111 are unprovided with either. Of the 29 Welsh constituencies 13 have candidates of both parties, 11 have Liberals only, one Conservative only, and four unprovided with either; while of the 71 in Scotland 21 have candidates of both parties, 37 Liberals only, four Conservatives only, and 9 neither. The total number of candidates who have already offered themselves or been chosen by the various party associations in Great Britain is 682, of which 543 have appeared in England, 40 in Wales, and 99 in Scotland. Two hundred and eighty-two Liberals and 261 Conservatives appear in England, 26 Liberals and 14 Conservatives in Wales, and 74 Liberals and 25 Conservatives in Scotland. One hundred and twenty-five Liberal and 34 Conservative members of the present Parliament will seek re-election for the seats they now hold, such seats being unaffected by the Redistribution Bill; 73 Liberals and 91 Conservative members for their present seats as remodelled by the Redistribution Bill, and 24 Liberal and 11 Conservative members for constituencies altogether unconnected with those for which they now sit. Fifteen of the Liberal candidates in England are now distinguished as "labour" candidates, and six of those in Scotland as "crofter."

The Conservative party in East Kent are about to adopt a complete scheme of reorganisation, based upon the altered conditions which will be occasioned by the Redistribution Bill. The object with which the scheme has been prepared is the securing of the thorough representation of the whole party. It is proposed to establish a Central Association, with branches for each polling district within the division. The objects of the Central Association will be to watch the revision of the Parliamentary register in the interests of the Conservative party, to disseminate a knowledge of Conservative principles and opinions, and to maintain and extend the influence of the party. At least once a quarter the Central Committee will meet to receive reports from each polling district association, and to take any steps that may be deemed advisable for the furtherance of the objects of the association.

A Conservative Working Men's Constitutional Club was opened on Saturday in Yeovil. The inaugural meeting was attended by the members for the division, Colonel Paget and Mr. J. Kenelm Digby, and Colonel Paget performed the opening ceremony. At a subsequent luncheon Colonel Paget read a letter from Sir Stafford Northcote, in which he said:—"We shall have occasion for all our strength to combat the influences which will be used against us in the next election. It will be a very critical one as regards the question of the cheap loaf. It is worth while to remind the people that it was not given by the Liberals, but by a Conservative Ministry, of which Sir Robert Peel was the chief. As regards the future, I am distinctly of opinion that the return to a protective duty on corn would be impossible, and that the idea that a Conservative Government would attempt to impose one is groundless."

Lieutenant-Colonel Owen Jones, one of the Boundary Commissioners, on Tuesday held an inquiry at the Guildhall, Westminster, to hear objections to the constitution of the four divisions of the new borough. The scheme of the Commissioners named these divisions as Hyde Park, Belgrave, Abbey, and Strand; but in the course of the inquiry a suggestion was made by Sir A. Hobhouse that North, East, South, and West might be adopted, while on the part of the High Bailiff it was recommended that the names of the divisions should be Hyde, Ebury, Minster, and Charing. The Commissioner promised to lay the various opinions before his colleagues.

A movement is on foot in Marylebone for returning to Parliament for one of the divisions of that borough the Rev. J. R. Diggle, one of the representatives for the Marylebone division on the School Board for London, and the chairman of the Finance Committee of that Board. A circular which has been issued on the subject says:—"If he were elected there is little doubt but that the disability under which he labours would be removed by Parliament. He would then be enabled to take the oath and his seat, and the constituency which he would represent would have the honour of removing an injustice perpetrated by a retrograde Parliament of eighty years ago."

The Earl of CARNARVON spoke on Saturday at a Conservative meeting at Taunton, and in reference to General Gordon said it was all very well to talk about erecting memorials to him; but the first duty the country had to do was to punish those by whose weakness and vacillation and treachery he had been betrayed to his death, and at all events to place the government of the country in firmer hands. To the new electors he held out the hand of welcome. He urged them not to believe those who would come among them, and endeavour to set class against class. They were members of one great family, and it was not right that there should be wrangling among them. Let them take an illustration from two men living at the present day—two men of great age, of great eloquence, of great power and influence, two men who had played a large part in public affairs in this country. One was a Radical; the other by birth, by profession, by life a staunch Conservative. The Radical was a man upon whose lips crowds had often hung with deserved admiration, for no man could speak better English; and yet there had scarcely been a speech of his in which he did not endeavour to set class against class. (A Voice—"Name!") Some one asked for his name—he was not afraid to give it, but he thought his description was sufficiently definite—he alluded to Mr. Bright. (Cheers and hisses.) He would now describe the Conservative. He was a man well stricken in years, a man whose whole life and energies had been devoted to the relief and happiness of his fellow-creatures, a man who had carried happiness into the midst of countless multitudes, who had relieved men and women and children from degrading occupations, whose name was known in mines, in factories, on the banks of canals, and in agricultural parishes, as a household word, and who would leave behind him a more blessed record than any statesman he knew. He was speaking of Lord Shaftesbury. (Cheers.) Put these two men together, and when the weary world of politics was over, and when the accounts of life were settled, who would wish to be Lord Shaftesbury and who Mr. Bright? Let not the new electors give credence to men who advocated new-fangled doctrines of plunder and immorality. All of them who had anything to lose ought to be sailing in the same boat.

A large and enthusiastic meeting was held on Wednesday night in the Victoria-hall, Sheerness, in connection with the local Conservative Association. Lord HARRIS said the career of the present Government was gradually coming to an end, and, seeing the terrible muddle into which they had plunged this country, he could not conceive anyone getting up in the morning without offering an earnest prayer that that might be its last. Mr. HERBERT KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN, the Conservative candidate for the Faversham and Sheerness division, having spoken, Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, M.P., referred to the strained relations between England and Russia, and said he hoped that all parties would agree to give the Government a free hand in the present crisis, if they showed a disposition to avoid the policy of drift and vacillation which had proved so fatal to the interests of this country in their dealings with other parts of the world. They had been told that Mr. Gladstone had put his foot down; but he had no faith in the statement, as from past experience he had found that when the Prime Minister put his foot down he managed to put his foot into it. A resolution condemning the policy of the Government was carried.

Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Goschen were entertained at dinner on Wednesday night by the Corporation of Edinburgh. Mr. GOSCHEN, in responding to the toast of the House of Commons, dwelt upon the necessity of making that body an efficient instrument of legislation. If municipal institutions would somewhat relieve Parliament, if they could make some progress in the course of decentralisation, Parliament would be better able to discharge its functions, while the municipal institutions would be raised in dignity and usefulness. Referring to Parliamentary obstruction, he remarked that it was the first and primary duty of Parliament to see that it should be able to discharge its duties smoothly, and in a business-like way. Sir CHARLES DILKE, replying to the toast of "Her Majesty's Ministers," said that the responsibilities of the State were increasing every year. There were also difficulties connected with foreign affairs which must greatly increase the responsibilities pressing upon them now. With regard to those difficulties, they had seen, at all events, this: that they found Great Britain a united country to meet them, and there was no difference between party and party, and hardly, he thought, between man and man, as to the strength of the ground on which they met them. There were also other sources of consolation and strength at such a moment, and these were to be found in the manner in which the whole of the empire had been brought together by the very difficulties of the situation. Replying subsequently to the toast of "The Royal Commission for the Housing of the Working Classes," Sir Charles Dilke said the Commission would have a favourable report to make concerning Scotland.

Sir FARRER HERSCHELL, addressing a meeting at Carnforth, Lancashire, on Wednesday, said he felt sure that if the public knew the extent to which obstruction was carried on in the House of Commons it would not be tolerated for one day. Lord Carnarvon had said that the Liberals should only speak of South Africa with shame. Now, if there was one man who ought to hide his face with shame when speaking of South Africa, it was Lord Carnarvon himself, for he was a member of the late Government. The foreign policy of the present Government has failed the most where it had gone upon the lines of the late Government. As to the difficulty with Russia, he said our Indian Empire would have been in far greater danger if we had not given back Candahar, as the retaining of that city would have been a reason for the Afghans seeking an alliance with Russia to drive out the British.

Mr. OSBORNE MORGAN, speaking on Wednesday night at Wrexham, referred to the difficulties with which the Government had to struggle in the House of Commons, and said he sympathised heartily with the impatience of the Welsh people at the postponement of their long-promised Intermediate Education Bill, but this delay was due in a great measure to the obstructive policy of the Conservatives. He was glad to see that the country generally approved of the resolute attitude which the Government had adopted with reference to the Afghan difficulty, and which had brought out in strong relief the loyalty of our Indian fellow-subjects and allies, just as the war in the Soudan had brought out the patriotism and devotion of our Australian colonies. Referring to the contemplated visit of Lord Salisbury to Wrexham and the death of Lord Cairns, he said it seemed to him that it was a long time since the fortunes of the Conservative party were at so low an ebb. They had leaders who did not lead, and followers who did not follow. Half of them were complaining that they had no policy; the other half that they had no men; and all this at a time when the enormous increase of the electorate and the approach of a new order of things made a definite policy and a clear-sighted leader an imperative necessity.

Mr. Leonard Courtney, M.P., speaking at Liskeard on Wednesday, asked Englishmen to remember that beyond their position as a European nation they were the centre of a vast colonial system. The advocates of Imperial federation were too eager to obtain some definite form for their design. He asked them to believe that he was not opposed to the idea of the brotherhood of the English-speaking people, but he was convinced that that brotherhood would be best developed by leaving the colonies either in alliance or in independence as they chose, but at all events in free friendship to work out their great destiny. Speaking in the evening at Saltash, Mr. Courtney maintained that the unhappy fatality of Gordon's death ought not to induce the Government to change their resolution to quit the Soudan, but that the same motives which compelled us to insist on the Egyptian Government giving up the idea of taking back the Soudan must compel us to abandon the idea of reclaiming it. The same facts existed; the Soudan was now as ever the open grave of the armies poured into it. General Gordon himself said it always had been and always would be a worthless possession. Adverting to the Afghan difficulty, he said that as the question at issue was a question simply of property—a kind of civil matter that they might carry to the Courts or to the arbitration of a friendly Power—it should be settled by arbitration in preference to war.

Mr. Leonard Courtney, M.P., speaking at a Liberal meeting at St. Germans on Thursday evening, said that he had heard of what might be said to be the beginning of a war between Russia and Afghanistan. A war between Russia and Afghanistan might be a war between Russia and England, and he wished them to realise the conditions of the question thus raised. Mr. Courtney then sketched the history of the Afghan question, attributing the difficulties which had arisen to the error of the late Conservative Government in going into Afghanistan instead of remaining behind the Suleiman range, the natural frontier of India. But since then, instead of leaving the Afghans to themselves, we had entered into a contract with the Ameer that if he would follow our advice and obey our instructions, and would act according to our inspiration, we would defend his frontier against any enemy—that enemy, of course, being Russia. Whatever he thought of that contract—and he did think it was a thing which ought not to have been entered into—when the engagement was made and the obligation was accepted we were bound to carry out what we as a nation had promised. We were, therefore, in the most unhappy position of possibly having to redeem that promise at the cost of repelling an attack made by Russia on the other side of Afghanistan. The news just received was of most grave import, inasmuch as it might possibly compel us to recognise as a fact that Russia had causelessly attacked the frontier of our ally. But we must not be too hasty in coming to any conclusion whatever on the matter. He had the day before suggested arbitration between the two Powers. Was the position affected by the news just received? The accounts which we had received differed in some details; but they agreed in this—that the attack was made by the Russians on the Afghans. The Russians justified the attack; the other side did not suggest any justification. It was not for us, at all events, to determine now without hearing what might be said on both sides—whether there had or there had not been any valid reason for that attack. It was quite possible that the Russian Government might not approve of what had been done. So that we ought not to jump to any immediate conclusion that what had happened necessarily created a war between England and Russia. It was quite possible that the action of the Russian General was inevitable; that he was compelled to do what he did, and that it was the fault of the Afghans and not of the Russians. It might be that the Afghans had acted contrary to our advice. He hoped that throughout England there would be, as far as possible, a suspension of judgment, and that there would be no attempt to hurry the nation and the Government into a position from which we should not be able to recover ourselves. There were circumstances in which war might be necessary; he had never shrunk from acknowledging that; but it was a necessity which we should adopt at the last moment and only when its necessity was fully demonstrated. He begged them to suspend their judgment and not pronounce hurriedly one way or the other as to the guilt or innocence of either of the two parties engaged in this momentous matter.

Lieutenant-Colonel Cowan, the Conservative candidate for the representation of the new borough of the Tower Hamlets, addressed a crowded meeting of the electors at Christ Church schools, Brick-lane, Spitalfields, on Thursday. Mr. Alderman Fowler, M.P., presided, and said at the outset that they must sink all personal considerations, because such considerations became insignificant in the presence of the grave crisis in the history of their country by which they were now confronted. He did not recollect since the Crimean war a day like the present, on which the Funds had fallen 2½ per cent. That showed the gravity of the position in which they were placed, and it behoved them to consider who were responsible for that position. The chairman then condemned the foreign policy of the Government, and contended that the present position in which this country was placed was to be attributed to the erratic foreign policy which they had pursued. One question was now uppermost in all their minds—namely, the Russian advance in Afghanistan, which had long been foretold by Indian statesmen. The Russians had attacked the Afghans, taken their camp and guns, and killed 500 men. ("Shame.") Were they, then, going to keep any longer in power the man who had said that he was the friend of Russia, and that if he were only kept in power this country would be in friendly relations with Russia. Mr. Gladstone had got into power by false pretences, and it was for the electors to decide whether they would condone the methods by which he ascended the giddy heights he occupied. Lieutenant-Colonel Cowan then addressed the meeting. He said the country was now sitting in judgment upon a Government which came into office five years ago on the faith of promises which they had not fulfilled; which came into power pledged to peace and retrenchment, but which had given the country war and taxation, a Government which inherited from its predecessors "peace with honour," and which, during five years, had deprived this country of both. So far as home affairs were concerned, they much needed a change of Administration; and as to matters abroad, no man in the country was satisfied with the foreign policy of the Government. When this Government came into power, they said that a single British soldier should not remain on Afghan soil; and in 1881 Lord Hartington and Sir Charles Dilke said they were to rely for the defence of India upon the disclaimers of Russia—(laughter)—but the present crisis showed the wisdom of Lord Beaconsfield's Government five years ago, in carrying out the defences for the protection of the Empire. Those defences were afterwards abandoned by the existing Government, and had now to be recommenced. (Cries of "Shame.") At the general election let the voters say that they would not again place confidence in men who made the degradation of their country the stepping-stone to power. (Cheers.) A vote of confidence in Lieut.-Colonel Cowan was adopted, and the meeting ended.

Mr. Edward Clarke, M.P., speaking at Plymouth on Thursday night, said war for such an issue would be dishonourable both to England and Russia. It would be deplorable if a conflict were entered upon before every means of honourable arrangement were exhausted. Mr. Stuart Macliver, M.P., remarked that whatever occurred England must maintain a firm and dignified attitude. War was to be deplored, but loss of prestige and honour was worse even than war.

Mr. G. W. E. Russell, Parliamentary Secretary of the Local Government Board, who is the Liberal candidate for the new borough of Fulham, in addressing on Thursday night a meeting of the constituency, who passed a unanimous resolution in his favour, said that in reference to the Afghan crisis there remained the important question of whether there was to be peace or war. On the last occasion of addressing them he had expressed the belief that the next Parliament would be pre-eminently a Parliament of peace. He could not believe the new constituencies would send men to the House of Commons who were not in favour of a policy of peace, and who would not press that policy on those who might be unwilling to support it. Against the policy of Imperialism of the late Government—the prosecution of British interests at the point of the bayonet—he had waged incessant war; for he had always held that the Sovereign or statesman who stirred up war for selfish purposes incurred an amount of guilt too terrible to contemplate. While an unjust or an unnecessary war was the greatest crime of which any Minister could be capable, there were reasons for which the most pacific of men must sometimes be prepared to draw the sword. (Hear, hear.) He was amazed at finding that he had been charged with complicity in an unnecessary war in Egypt and the Soudan. As regarded that part of our present policy, not being a member of the Cabinet, he was not in possession of the details of the policy which was being pursued in the Soudan, and if he were to give any account of the military operations there he should probably be considerably wide of the mark. As a matter of personal and private feeling, he hoped that the long period of inaction which the intense heat of the summer would necessitate might give the public such an opportunity of canvassing, criticising, and making their voices heard on this war as would lead to its early cessation; and, moreover, he believed that would be the case. He regarded the news just received from Afghanistan as not wholly unsatisfactory. What had happened on the frontier wore a very threatening aspect, but they were not at liberty to charge the Russian Cabinet or Government with complicity in what had occurred. He had every reason to believe that their language by telegram since then was conciliatory and pacific, while it was certain that a commander carrying on operations at a distance might often commit aggressions pretty much on his own responsibility. What remained to be seen was, whether Russia would repudiate what had been done, would exert herself to maintain peace, would respect the independence of Afghanistan, and act in no sense hostilely to our Indian Empire. It seemed to him, in any case, that the threatening aspect of affairs would justify Her Majesty's Government in transporting our troops from the Soudan and massing them where they are likely to be wanted, in safeguarding our Indian territory. (Hear, hear.) That would bring us out of the Soudan difficulty, and place our troops where they would be a strength to us and a standing warning to Russian commanders against aggression. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. S. Smith, M.P., speaking on Thursday at the annual meeting of the Mercantile Marine Service Association in Liverpool, referred to the alarming news received from Afghanistan, which he said had cast a shade over the whole community. It had come upon them as a great surprise, because they all expected when they left London that a peaceable arrangement would be arrived at. It might be that there had only been an accidental collision contrary to the orders from the Russian head-quarters, but there was only too much reason for doubt lest it should have been part of a preconceived policy. He hoped earnestly some way would be found for averting the awful catastrophe of a great European war, and he was sure the Government would exhaust every reasonable means of preserving peace; but if Russia was determined to make aggressions upon Afghanistan there would be no difference of opinion as to the duties laid upon us to protect our ally.

The Hibbert Lectures for 1885 will be delivered by Dr. Otto Pfleiderer, Professor in the University of Berlin, who will take for his theme "The Origin and Growth of Religion as Illustrated by the Influence of Paulinism on the Development of Christianity." *Der Paulinismus* is the title of an elaborate work for which his name is already famous. The lectures will be six in number, and will be delivered in English, first at London, in St. George's-hall, Langham-place, and afterwards in the new examination schools at Oxford. The London days will be April 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, and 29, at five p.m.; those for Oxford, April 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, and May 1, at six p.m.

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MR. POWER'S LETTERS FROM KHARTOUM.

A series of interesting letters written from Khartoum by Mr. Frank Power, the correspondent of the *Times*, who was killed near Merawee with Colonel Stewart, was published last week. They were written to members of his own family, and edited by his brother, Mr. Arnold Power. The first letter, addressed to his mother, is dated from on board the steamship *Cuzco*, in which vessel he left Plymouth for the Soudan, in company with Mr. O'Donovan, on the 18th of May, 1883. The first letter from Khartoum is dated the 2nd of August of the same year, and gives a graphic account of the journey, and the writer's experiences of the country, and the preparations for General Hicks's ill-fated expedition. Other letters follow up to the 14th of December, when Mr. Power announces that he has received a telegram from Sir Evelyn Baring asking him to act as British Consul, which he consented to do. In this letter too he mentions the confirmation of the massacre of Hicks's troops:—"The last that was seen of poor old Hicks was his taking his revolver in one hand and his sword in the other; calling on his soldiers to fix bayonets, and his staff to follow him, he spurred at the head of his troops into the dense mass of naked Arabs, and perished with all his men. They had fought for three days and nights without a drop of water, the whole day under a scorching sun on a sandy plain." On December 26 Mr. Power writes:—

"We heard yesterday from one of our spies that the Mahdi has commenced his march towards Sennaar and Khartoum; if he comes before our reinforcements dawdle up from Cairo, he can easily walk through the place. The works protecting the town are nearly four miles long, and we have not 2,000 soldiers to man them; and this would not permit us to have a patrol or a policeman in a city in which there are 15,000 avowed rebels, all with arms in their houses. The reinforcements should have been here long ago; but those wretched officials, &c., at Cairo move slowly when there is not a prospect of backsheesh about. However, the first relieving column should be here in twelve days. I wire nearly every day to Sir E. Baring and to the *Times*."

Several other references are made in other letters to the expected descent of the Mahdi and the preparations being made to defend the town. "As for expecting help from Cairo, that's all my eye." Mr. Power continues, writing on New Year's Day, 1884:—

"On November 27 a message was sent to Colonel de Coetlogon that Baker Pasha and army had left Suez for Souakim, and that Zebehr Pasha, with his 6,000 Bedaween, was already off from Cairo by train. On the 2nd it was telegraphed that the armies were on the road, and would be here in a few weeks. It is twenty-two days from here to Cairo by the Assiout route (train), and no reliefs have arrived; but I see by a Cairo newspaper of the 8th that not a man has yet left Cairo, and this morning Colonel de Coetlogon gets a telegram from the Khedive to say that 'he believes he cannot get together a column to relieve us, so we must depend on the neighbouring sheikhs for assistance.' This is really rich, as the Khedive knows very well that there is not a sheikh in the Soudan who would, or dare, help us; and the fact of our sending to a tribe for help would confess our weakness and bring it down on us like a hundred of bricks. To show how much the Khedive knows of the place, he telegraphs to Colonel de Coetlogon to ask—Are the gates closed? as if the place had walls. It is an open town, with garden, fields, &c., and not a bit of defence round it till Colonel de Coetlogon commenced the ditch; and yet they try to hamper our movements by trying to command us from Cairo. The latest fad was to order us to send half our garrison to Berber—a place that is perfectly safe, and has as large a garrison as ours."

On the 2nd of January Mr. Power says he has sent to the *Times* an account of the true state of matters, and "if our lives are sacrificed it will not be said that the people in Cairo were kept in a state of ignorance as to the state of affairs here." On the 12th he says:—"They (at Cairo) are leaving it all to fate, and the rebels are growing stronger." On the 24th Mr. Power writes to his mother:—

"I am so sorry you are anxious about me. It would be cowardly and shameful for me to leave Khartoum now in the face of the enemy, and because there is danger here; even for your sake I would not do it. I am only doing my duty, and what every poor unpaid soldier must do. Both the *Times* and the Government have given me leave to go if I wish. However, the order for a general retreat is given, and we shall march together to Berber. I hear that Chinese Gordon is coming up. They could not have a better man. He, though severe, was greatly loved during the five years he spent here. . . . Just got a telegram from Mr. Bell, the *Times*' agent for Egypt, to say, 'Gordon leaves Cairo to-night, and will be in Khartoum in eighteen days.' The shortest time on record is twenty-four days; but Gordon (sword and Bible) travels like a whirlwind. No Arab of the desert could, when he was up here, vie with him in endurance on camel-back."

In the same letter an unsuccessful attempt by two steamers to destroy a bridge of boats made by the enemy is recorded: "So now all communication with unhappy Sennaar by land or water is cut off. The captains of the two steamers report that fifteen minutes from here the banks of the river are held by thousands of rebels with Remington rifles." On the 9th of February he says:—"I don't believe the fellows in Lucknow looked more anxiously for Colin Campbell than we look for Gordon. As regards the relief of this place, when he comes he can only carry out the retreat." Mr. Power expresses himself entirely against the holding of Khartoum. On the 13th of February, Mr. Power got the following telegram:—"From General Gordon, Berber, to Frank Power, British Consul. Best respects to you. I leave Berber to-day; will be in Khartoum on Sunday." Mr. Power adds: "We had been for days in great doubt as to his movements; and I was besieged all day by people wishing to see the telegram and learn about the 'Abu el Aswad ani,' the father of the Soudanese." Speaking of the natives, Mr. Power says:—

"The Soudani and the Arabs are splendid fellows; ground down and robbed by every ruffian who has money enough (ill-gotten) to buy himself a position of pasha, or free licence to rob, they are quite right to rebel and hurl the nest of robbers to the other side of Siout. For years it has been 'kourbash, kourbash, et toujours kourbash.' This gets monotonous, and the poor devils rebel. I will, indeed, forgive the fellow who puts his lance into me, if that is to be my fate, because I will feel that he is right as long as I am of the same colour as the scoundrels who have robbed him and his for so many years. How is the government of the country carried on? It is only the plains along the banks of the Nile which are cultivated. Every Arab must pay a tax for himself, children, and wife, or wives. This he has to pay three times over—once for the Kedowi, once for the tax-collector or local beys, and once for the Governor-General. The last two are illegal, but still scrupulously collected to the piastre. To pay this he must grow some corn, and for the privilege of growing corn he must pay £3 per annum. To grow corn the desert earth must have water; the means of irrigation is a 'sakeh,' a wheel like a mill-wheel with buckets on it, which raise the water into a trough, and then it flows in little streams over the land. A sakeh is turned by two oxen. Every man who uses a sakeh must pay £7; if he doesn't use it he must go into prison for life and have his hut burned. Everyone must pay for the right of working to earn money; every one must pay if he is idle; in any case, everyone must pay to make the officials rich. If you have a merkeb, or trading-boat, you are fined £4 if you don't continually fly the Egyptian flag, and you must pay £4 for the privilege of flying it. It is this system, and not the Mahdi, that has brought about this rebellion. The rebels are in the right, and God and chance seem to be fighting for them; and, as long as I live to see you once more, I hope they will hunt every Egyptian neck and crop out of the Soudan. Better a thousand times the barbarities of slavery than the detestable barbarities and crimes of the Egyptian rulers."

Writing on the 22nd of February, Mr. Power says:—"Colonel de Coetlogon is gone, and Gordon is here Gordon, Colonel Stewart, and I now mess and live together." Speaking of Gordon, he says:—

"Gordon is a most loveable character—quiet, mild, gentle, and strong; he is so humble, too. The way he pats you on the shoulder when he says, 'Look here, dear fellow, now what do you advise?' would make you love him. When he goes out of doors there are always crowds of Arab men and women at the gate to kiss his feet, and twice to-day the furious women, wishing to lift his feet to kiss them, threw him over. He appears to like me, and already calls me Frank. He likes my going so much among the natives; for not to do so is a mortal sin in his eyes. I often speak of you to General Gordon; he says he must make your acquaintance before we go to the Congo; he would like a day in Dublin. He is dictator here; the Mahdi has gone down before him, and to-day sent him a 'salam,' or message of welcome. It is wonderful that one man could have such an influence on 200,000 people. Numbers of women flock here every day to ask him to touch their children to cure them; they call him the 'father and saviour of the Soudan.' He has found me badly up in Thomas à Kempis, which he reads every day, and has given me an *Imitation of Christ*. He is, indeed, I believe, the greatest and best man of this century."

In the last letter of the series, dated March 6, 1884, Mr. Power writes:—

"Gordon is working wonders with his conciliatory policy. Of course those French brutes must interfere. To-day a new French Consul, or a man entrusted with a secret mission from France, arrived here. There is not a French subject in Khartoum, or a penny's French interest in the Soudan since M. Marquet went from here, yet this fellow comes. He is the editor of the *Bosphore Egyptien*, a halfpenny evening paper in Cairo, which was suppressed last week for violent attacks (personal and filthy) on Baring, Clifford Lloyd, and the English officers, and horrible stories about our Queen. The people here, Greeks, Arabs, &c., all condemn the bad taste of the French in sending him here as Consul; he has not yet called on any of us in the palace; but we three (Gordon, Stewart, and myself) are agreed as to how we will receive him."

The letters are in every way interesting, abounding in graphic accounts of the condition of the country and the habits and occupations of its inhabitants.

GENERAL GORDON'S LIFE AT GRAVESEND.

There has just been published by Messrs. Abraham Kingdon and Co. *The Life and Work of General Gordon at Gravesend*, by W. E. Lilley, clerk in the Royal Engineer Department during General Gordon's command; with a preface by Miss Gordon, and an introduction by the Rev. H. Carruthers Wilson, M.A. (formerly one of the chaplains to the forces at Gravesend). General Gordon during the period covered by the book was Commanding Royal Engineer of the Gravesend district. New forts on the north and south banks of the Thames were in course of construction, and the old batteries at New Tavern and Tilbury underwent an entire renovation during his period of service. The constant inspection of the progress of these works, the direction of the staff employed on them, the maintenance of the necessary official correspondence and the general oversight of all barracks and fortifications in the district occupied no small portion of his time. During his stay at Gravesend, General Gordon, we are told—

"Made it his life-task to comfort sad hearts wherever he found them, to relieve the suffering and to help the helpless. He took by the hand the despised, wandering, neglected lads of the town, fed, lodged, and clothed them, and did not rest satisfied till he had placed them in a position to get an honest living. It was in these labours that he found that happiness and peace to which he alludes, and which gave to his countenance a wonderfully gentle and cheerful expression. He evidently delighted in having plenty to do, and considered the want of occupation the cause of many of the ailments complained of by some of his acquaintances; and indeed he once prescribed for a lady friend of his 'a good long day's washing' as a remedy for an attack of what is fashionably called *ennui*."

One of the objects which received a considerable share of his support was the Ragged School.

"Here, indeed, was a field which commended itself to his judgement, and it was quite a treat on Sunday evenings to see him sitting in the midst of his class, his curly brown hair forming a strange contrast with the rough unkempt locks which surrounded it. How those lads hung upon his lips; how attentive they were! And yet, as some of them could not read, it is doubtful whether the teaching was altogether confined to a Scripture lesson. He drew from them their history, the story of their hardships and sufferings, made their sorrows his own, found out where they lived, if they had any home at all, and if he could not visit them they managed to visit him, and were always received with a hearty welcome. The only thing that angered him a little was when some Pharisee of the Pharisees would give an address to the scholars in which bitterness and condemnation played a more prominent part than love and tenderness."

A preacher Gordon was not—in the sense generally understood by that term—but what he said went straight to the hearts of the people.

"They knew that he loved them, felt for their woes, and would help them when they needed it. He taught a Gospel of *love*, which as such touched the inner springs of their life. These poor people when he left Gravesend spontaneously put their mites together and presented him with a very nice Bible. A more genuine offering of affection and gratitude never was made. Beside these engagements he generally visited in the afternoon one or another of the Sunday schools in the neighbourhood. He did not favour any one in particular, but apparently delighted in having an opportunity for meeting different lads to talk to them on the grandest of all topics, and in showing his sympathy with the efforts of all denominations of Christians in their endeavours to instil into the minds of the young the principles of the Gospel of the Son of God."

Another object of his solicitude was the infirmary attached to the workhouse, in which were several aged people of both sexes.

"Regularly once a week would General Gordon spend an hour or two amongst these poor, helpless victims of disease, occasionally taking a friend with him, or, when unavoidably detained, sending a substitute. It is impossible to describe how welcome these visits were to the patients. There was always a "bit o'baccy" for the old men, and a "screw o' tea" for the old women, and these little gifts were highly appreciated. Nor was this all. In each ward a few words of Scripture were read, and a simple, suitable, but earnest prayer offered for all present. Then he left them comforted and eagerly longing for the time to come when they might again see his face and hear his voice."

But, apart from his class in the Ragged School, boys generally were the special objects of Gordon's solicitude.

"Whenever he came across any more than usually destitute, he would, so to speak, hunger after them. He was very partial to the boys belonging to the fishing-boats; they were regular visitors at his house. He was their guide, their counsellor, and their friend; and with a view to improving them he started a night school for them at his own residence. They were always made heartily welcome and never patronised. He was anxious to put these lads into the way of getting their own living. For many of them he succeeded in obtaining situations, sometimes in warehouses, &c., sometimes on board ships, or in the barges that carried stores from Woolwich to various places. As a rule, he would, whenever it was necessary, procure a suitable outfit for the lads, so that no extra burden should be imposed on the parents or friends. Of those who went abroad he carefully followed the track, and marked upon the map in his room the places at which they would have to touch. He was very careful about hurting the feelings of the boys, and has even been known to apologise to a boy to whom he thought he had acted rudely in pitching a coin at him. He set the boys a high example of truthfulness, and in every possible way strove to bring them up to his own standard in this respect. From the very bottom of their hearts they trusted him, and in their own humble way they strove to show their gratitude and affection. Now and again there might be seen the words 'God bless the Kernel' chalked upon the fence opposite the house. Little presents of shrimps for himself and his friend were brought to his door, principally by a laddie named Willie W——, who, by the way, had what the General called 'a sweet little lisp,' and who is now living to testify what Gordon did for him. There was one little chap who had a wooden leg, which was frequently renewed at the General's expense."

SANCTUARY AND THE AVENGER OF BLOOD.

In the centre of the town of Teheran—the seat of government of Nussir-u-Deen, the King of Kings, the Asylum of the Universe—is a large square; it is called the Square of the Gun. The huge piece of ordnance that gives its name to the place is very like one of the cannon which stand behind the Horse Guards. Clustered round it are a group of weary-looking men. They are murderers; safe for the time being from the law, safe (generally) even from the avenger of blood: the place is *bast*, or sanctuary. Under the shadow or within the touch of this gun the murderer, even the traitor, is safe. Let him once leave this refuge, if only for a few yards, and the criminal will fall into the hands of the law or the clutch of the avenger of blood. For in Persia the murderer has not so much to fear the laws of his country as the vengeance, legal or otherwise, of his victim's relatives. Blood has a price; and that price must be paid, or the criminal must be prepared to shed his own. The price is not arbitrary: it is fixed, at so much for a freed man, another price for a woman, another for a slave. Nominally, and according to the religious law, even the hairs of a man's beard have a price (in camels) if extracted by violence. And within the last twenty years we have known a case of a Mussulman who sent in a regular account in this form to a European:—

To fifteen hairs from the beard of Rejeb
Its equivalent being fifteen camels at seventy kerans:
=1,050 kerans (£42). Please pay bearer.
(Seal of High Priest.)

This document was quite in legal form; but, as the aggrieved Rejeb was unable to produce any hairs, a trifling present satisfied him. So much for a tooth; so much for an eye; so much for each drop of blood; finally, so much for a life. And if the guilty person cannot pay this price, then his own life is at the mercy of the victim's relatives. Such is the law. But it is a point of honour with the relatives of a murdered man not to take money if possible, but to exact their right. Hence arise "blood-feuds." These are principally observed in the south of Persia. There, where every man is armed to the teeth, blood-feuds are common. "I must leave you here, sahib," exclaims your guide, quite as a matter of course; "I have a blood-feud with the next village, and my life is not safe beyond this point." Sometimes these "blood-feuds" remain unavenged for many years; the guilty man wisely keeping out of the reach of the avenger of blood by remaining in a village where the other dare not show his face on account of the Nemesis awaiting him also in that particular district. Time sometimes, though rarely, heals these feuds. A man gets tired of being hunted, of feeling that he may be shot or stabbed or poisoned at any moment, and he compromises: he gives the family of his victim a horse or money or so many bags of dates, or perhaps even his daughter in marriage. Or perhaps a youth of twenty will shoot down an aged man, the murderer of his grandfather, whom perhaps he has never seen; and, fleeing to the arms of his delighted mother, will exclaim, "I have avenged our blood!"—thus bringing a "blood-feud" on his own head. These are some of the results of the universal practice, in the south of Persia, of carrying arms. It must be remembered, too, that the murderer in these cases is not looked upon with horror; he is simply a man who has done his duty. North of Shiraz these blood-feuds are uncommon; and an Ispahani would certainly prefer the price—or, failing that, a decent sum in cash—to judicial revenge. As a rule, in the present day, a murderer is executed, and never handed over to the tender mercies of his victim's friends; but legally the relatives can themselves take the guilty man's life.

The gun is "sanctuary" as an appanage of the Shah himself. So is his stable; the heel-ropes of his horses give impunity to the criminal who holds them; so does the tail of the Royal steed, even though the Shah himself be riding him. And the power of giving sanctuary as an appanage of rank is shared by the King's sons and uncles and provincial governors. The Shah and the grandees we have named would be the last to break the right of sanctuary; for in doing it they would commit an impious act. But the "sanctuary" of the Royal stable, the gun, &c., has its drawbacks. A criminal may fall into the hands of justice without the rights of sanctuary being actually interfered with. The Royal grooms may be forbidden to give him food or water, or may decline to do so; or his relatives may not be allowed to approach him, and so he may be starved into surrender; or the horse, irritated at finding his tail grasped, may by a kick or breaking into a gallop deliver the offender into the hands of his pursuers.

The principal sanctuaries where a criminal is really safe are the holy shrines of Persia, the tombs of saints and the places of pilgrimage, and some mosques; also, to a lesser degree, in the houses of great moollahs and of holy men. Even the abode of the "unclean" Englishman, and the offices of the English Government Telegraph Department, are looked upon to a certain extent as sanctuary. And rather embarrassing results are produced when "the office" is suddenly entered by a bevy of shrieking women and children, who perhaps flee there for fear of their lives, or what is dearer, and remain for days, while their husbands and fathers are being done to death: nominally on account of religion, really to gratify the greed of those in power. An instance of this was seen at Ispahan in the last six years, when two Syuds (holy descendants of the Prophet) were slain, nominally as Baabis; their families taking refuge at the English Telegraph Office, and their younger brother being only spared on cursing the name of their (false) prophet: which the two elder brothers had indignantly refused to do, and died accordingly.

Around the great mosques and shrines are generally whole quarters containing bazaars (rows of shops), which also afford sanctuary. Here the criminal, or possibly the innocent suspect, may stay unmolested; he will be able to buy all necessaries, and may even live and earn his living, and ultimately die at a good old age. The priests take good care to preserve the inviolability of such *bast* for their own sakes. For in the power of protecting the criminal against the secular arm lies one of the chief sources of their power. Woe to the governor who should attempt to forcibly arrest a man within the sacred precincts. The Shah himself would hardly presume to do so. It has been done, of course; but generally the prisoner had to be surrendered. Guards of soldiers have surrounded shrines to prevent ingress or egress, till the fugitive, in despair, has given himself up. But a popular tumult is always the result, secretly or openly stirred up by the priests; and an excited and fanatical Persian mob under the influence of their moollahs is not to be trifled with.

If it is determined to secure the refugee at any price, recourse is usually had to stratagem, bribery, false promises, or even poison. By one of these means the man is at last secured; but their open employment is very rare. And if the hunted man falls into the hand of his pursuers, it is generally through his own credulity.—*St. James's Gazette.*

At a meeting of the Committee of the International Arbitration and Peace Association, held in London on Thursday night, it was resolved:—"That this meeting strongly urges on her Majesty's Government the necessity of immediate cessation of hostilities in the Soudan, and especially that it should desist from the attempt to force a railway through the Hadendowa country, such operation being certain to provoke reprisals from the Arabs; also that her Majesty's Ministers be called upon without further delay to open direct negotiations with the Mahdi by sending him some conciliating mission to propose terms of peace."

THE ASHES OF A CÆSAR.

The *Times* correspondent at Rome, who is a scholar and an archæologist, has sent to that journal a most interesting communication as to some important discoveries recently made in that great and inexhaustible storehouse of antiquity. After abridging the description Tacitus gives of the events connected with the tragic death of the Emperor Galba in the Forum—which has a particular interest for the archæologist, as including some valuable topographical indications—and telling how the Emperor's litter was overturned near the Curtian Lake, while at the same time Titus Vinius was slain just in front of the Temple of Julius, a few yards distant, he narrates the murder of another of Otho's victims, with whom the present discoveries are more immediately connected. This was Piso Licinianus, the Emperor's adopted son and successor, whose ashes were finally enclosed in a handsome white marble *cippus*, placed in the tomb of the Licinian family on the Via Appia, a short distance outside the Porta Collina.

The site of the Curtian Lake, where Galba fell from his litter and was butchered; the remains of the Temple of Julius, where Vinius was slain, and of the House of the Vestals, into which Piso fled, have all been restored to light. We can stand at those spots and call up the memory of the events themselves; and now the actual scene where the last act of this tragedy, as it concerns Piso, was performed, has been discovered.

The workmen busy in digging the foundations for one of the new line of houses just within the modern Porta Salaria encountered that by no means rare phenomenon of the ground sounding hollow beneath them, and there below they found a vaulted chamber, the *hypogeum* of a family tomb, with seven handsome marble *cippi* standing in their places around it—that in which the weeping Verania placed the alabaster urn containing the ashes of her husband exactly 1,816 years ago, and those wherein the remains of his father, one of his brothers, and four other members of his family were deposited.

Piso's monument is the largest of the seven. It is a rectangular dado of white marble, measuring 3ft. 2in. in height by 3ft. in width and 2ft. 7in. in thickness, standing on a moulded plinth a foot in height, and surmounted by a pediment ornamented with pulvinars on the sides, and griffins on the tympanum, the entire height being 5ft. 7in. The pediment is wrought—as are also those of the other *cippi*—out of a separate block of marble, and forms in fact the lid, covering and concealing the cavity in the dado in which the vase containing the ashes was placed. On one side of the dado a sacrificial vase is sculptured in relief, and on the other a paten. The inscription cut on the sunk panel of the face, in beautifully formed letters, almost uncial in character, and two and a-half inches in height, reads as follows:—

DIIS.MANIBVS
L.CALPVRNI.PISONIS.
FRVGI.LICINIANI.
XV.VIR..S.F.
ET.VERANIAE.
Q.VERANI.COS.AVG.F.
GEMINAE
PISONIS.FRVGI.

The other *cippus* measures from 3ft. 6in. to 3ft. 10in. in height. That containing the ashes of Piso's father is ornamented on the angles of the dado with satyrs' heads with rams' horns, from which hang festoons of fruits and flowers in high relief on the front and both sides, while on the back is a circular wreath of laurel leaves. The inscription, which is damaged in the lower line, reads as follows:—

M.LICINIVS
M.F.MEN.
CRASSVS.FRVGI
PONTIF.PR.VRB
COS.LEG
TI.CLAVDI.CAESARIS
AVG.GERMANICI
IN.Mauritania (?).

From this we learn that Marcus Licinius Crassus was Pontifex, Prætor Urbanus, Consul (A.D. 27) and Legate of the Emperor Claudius in—it may be supposed—Mauritania. He accompanied Claudius on his expedition into Britain, and in the triumphal procession in which the Emperor entered Rome on returning he rode behind the covered litter of Messalina, together with the other officers who had gained triumphal ornaments in that war, and, mounted on a richly caparisoned horse, wore a robe embroidered with palm leaves, it being the second time he had attained that honour. Finally, however, he was, together with his wife Scribonia—who, as I have mentioned, was the daughter of Pompeia, granddaughter of the Great Pompey—put to death by order of Claudius.

The third *cippus*, similar in ornamentation to Piso's, contained the ashes of his eldest brother, and is inscribed as follows:—

CN.POMP
CRASSI.F.MEN
MAGNVS
PONTIF.QVAEST.
TI.CLAVDI.CAESARIS.AVG
GERMANICI
SOCERI.SVI

He had assumed, as he was fully entitled to do, the name of his mother's family, of which, through her, he was the only remaining representative. Caligula, however, prohibited him from bearing the cognomen of Magnus, but this distinction was restored to him by Claudius, whose eldest daughter, Antonia, he married, and by whose order he was ultimately put to death at Messalina's desire. Seneca, in the *Apocolocyntosis*, says satirically that Claudius restored him his name and cut off his head. Claudius sent him to announce his victory over Britain to the Senate, and, as the inscription shows, he held the offices of Pontifex and Quæstor.

The fourth *cippus* is ornamented at the corners with fluted pilasters, the caps of which are each curiously formed by two birds with half-extended wings and their heads downwards. They carry a boldly carved frieze of acanthus leaves, from among which a lion is springing on one side and a panther on the other. The inscription reads as follows:—

C.CALPVRNIVS
CRASSVS.FRVGI
LICINIANVS.CON
SVL.PONTIFEX
ET.AGEDIA.QVIN
TINA.CRASSI.

The fifth, ornamented similarly to the preceding, bears this inscription:—

C.CALPVRNIO
PISONI.CRASSO
FRVGI.LICINIANO

The inscription on the sixth, which corresponds in ornamentation to the first and third, reads thus:—

LICINIA.CORNELIA
M.F.VOLVSIA
TORQVATA
L.VOLVSI.COS.
AVGVRIS.

The seventh is richly ornamented with ox skulls on the angles, from which hang garlands of laurel leaves and berries with birds flying between them, but the inscription is illegible.

Of the members of the family to whom the inscriptions on the 4th, 5th, and 6th *cippi* refer, nothing is known, but in all probability the Lucius Volusius mentioned on the fifth is the same L. Volusius Saturninus who died A.D. 56, aged 93, after having outlived all those who were members of the Senate during his consulship.

It is curious that some of the letters of the inscription on Piso's monument—*i.e.*, the D with which the first line, and the L with which the second begin; the letters P O N in Pisonis, R in Frugi, I N of Liciniani, the X V at the beginning of the fourth line, and the R in Veraniæ have been obliterated with a pointed tool, as if a workman had begun to erase the inscription by cutting out some of the most important letters first. Can it be possible that an order *memoriæ damnatio* had been issued against Piso by Otho on being told of the inscription placed on his monument, and that Otho's speedy death prevented the necessity for the erasure being completed?

Together with these *cippi* a beautiful bronze statuette about 2ft. in height was standing in the tomb, but it was hidden by some of the workmen, and found its way, as was afterwards ascertained, into the possession of a Russian collector, who paid 6,000f. for it and sent it out of Rome at once. The sellers of antiquities obtained in this fashion have never time to haggle about prices, and one may well suppose, therefore, that the statuette was worth at least four times what the thieves or the receiver got for it. But this was not all. When the owner of the property, Signor Maraini, who naturally enough, in the circumstances, was somewhat tardily informed of the discovery, went down to see it, all the *cippi* had been opened, and the cinerary urns which were in them had all disappeared, excepting one made of rare Oriental alabaster. It had also been opened, and was empty. "Where," asked Signor Maraini, "are the ashes that were in these monuments?" "Ashes?" replied the man as if astonished. "Yes, ashes," repeated Signor Maraini. "Well," he answered, "in truth there were ashes and a great many of them, but I never dreamed that they were of the slightest importance, and, as they were very white and clean, *le ho raccolte in una cesta, e le ho mandate alla mia moglie per fare il bucato*" ("I gathered them together into a basket and sent them to my wife to make lye of for her washing"). And thus have the ashes of an Imperial Cæsar, adopted by Galba as Tiberius was adopted by Augustus, and accepted by the Senate, been used in this year of grace 1885, more than eighteen centuries after his death, by a Roman washerwoman to cleanse her dirty linen with, together with the ashes of other members of his family, in whose veins flowed the noble blood of the Crassi and of Pompey the Great. At such "base use" one cannot but exclaim "Pah!" as Hamlet did when he put down the skull.

PRESENTATION TO THE LORD BISHOP OF MARITZBURG.

Some Churchmen in England, hearing how much pressure has been brought to bear upon the Lord Bishop of Maritzburg, during his visit to England, to persuade him to resign the see to which he was duly elected and consecrated sixteen years ago, in order to make room for the appointment of someone else, whom the followers of the late Dr. Colenso might be able to accept without sacrifice of their Erastian prejudices or principles, and knowing how fatal such a step would be, wished to express their gratitude to the Bishop, before he left our shores to return to his arduous work in Natal, for the brave determination with which he has steadily declined to desert the post to which God has called him. In consideration of the present state of the diocese, it was thought that the presentation of a purse, with the names of friends who joined in the presentation, would be the best way both of helping the Bishop and of giving expression to the feelings of his friends. There was very little time for preparation or united action, as the Bishop had arranged for leaving England in March; but, during the last few weeks, upwards of £340 has been received from some 200 friends.

Mr. Beresford-Hope, M.P., who has always shown the warmest interest in the diocese of Maritzburg, and indeed in the whole Church of South Africa, was asked, and readily assented, to present the purse and list of names to the Bishop, which he did in the following letter:—

Arklow House, Connaught-place, W., March 5.

My dear Lord,—It will not, I trust, be regarded as presumption on my part if, in the name as well of other Churchmen as of myself, I take the occasion of your present visit to England to assure you of the affection, the admiration, and the respect with which they have followed your episcopal career during sixteen anxious years. The circumstances which led to the selection of yourself to preside over the See of Maritzburg were so exceptional, so full of rebuke to the Catholic Faith, and of difficulty and distress to all at Natal who were zealous for the honour of Almighty God, as to tax to the utmost the qualities, spiritual, moral, and administrative, of him who might dare in the fear of the Lord to undertake the appalling responsibility of its chief pastorship in view of a great and blessed result of a successful Episcopate.

Your Lordship has been successful, and more than successful, in overcoming difficulties, in collecting faithful fellow-helpers around you—ten when you came, now thirty—and in raising the number of your churches from two to thirty-two. For this the warm respectful gratitude of Churchmen in England as well as in South Africa is most justly due to you. So, as the expression of their thankfulness to Almighty God for having raised up and sustained you, as well as in aid of your pious work, some

Churchmen have combined to subscribe a purse of which they request your acceptance, craving the privilege of being allowed to offer it in the character of your friends, and entreating your Lordship not to measure their gratitude by the means at their disposal for expressing it.

May I, on my own behalf, be allowed to add that I esteem it a high honour to have been chosen as the mouthpiece of those who, for their part, as I am well assured, represent a vast number of well-wishers throughout the length and breadth of our Communion.

Allow me to subscribe myself with great respect, your Lordship's faithful and obedient servant,

A. J. B. Beresford-Hope.

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Maritsburg.

The list accompanying this was headed, "Names of a few friends in England who have joined in contributing a Purse of £340 to the Right Rev. Father in God, William Kenneth Macrorie, Lord Bishop of Maritzburg, as a mark of their affection and esteem for his Lordship, and of their firm conviction that, under his wise rule, rather than by his resignation of the See, the present unhappy schism in Natal will best be healed." It included among others the following:—Right Hon. A. J. B. Beresford-Hope, M.P., Right Hon. Lord Forbes, Hon. Charles L. Wood, Right Rev. Bishop Hobhouse, Very Rev. the Dean of Lichfield, Ven. the Archdeacon of Taunton, Rev. Canon Bright, D.D., Rev. Canon Liddon, D.D., Rev. Canon Butler, Rev. the Warden of Radley, Rev. the Hon. Henry Douglas, Sir John Gibbons, Bart., William Barber, Esq., Q.C., Rev. Canon Barker, Rev. Canon Bratton, Rev. Prebendary Whittington, Rev. Prebendary Tucker, Rev. F. H. Murray, Rev. V. Stuckey Coles, Vice-Admiral D. Robertson-Macdonald, Lieut.-Col. J. B. Hardy, H. C. Richards, Esq., W. F. G. Spranger, Esq., Rev. T. Outram Marshall, Rev. H. E. Carlyon, and Rev. Cecil Deedes.

The following reply has been received from the Bishop:—

52, Upper Gloucester-place, Dorset-square, March 20, 1885.

My dear Mr. Beresford-Hope,—I thank you most sincerely, and through you those kind friends who are associated with you, for the handsome present which has reached me at your hands to-day.

Let me assure you that the very kindness and warmth of expression in your letter render my difficulty the greater in responding to it as I could wish to do, but I trust you will not doubt that such expressions coming from one who has followed with intelligent interest the whole history of the Church in South Africa throughout its troubled course, and who at the same time represents so much of the best and most earnest Church feeling in this country, are most highly valued by me, and the support thus afforded to my position is peculiarly welcome at the present time.

I venture especially to thank you for your reference to the exceptionally trying circumstances under which I was called to the Episcopate, for, while none can be more deeply conscious than I am how greatly your kindness has led you to over-rate the share which I myself have had in the measure of success with which God has blessed our efforts during the past sixteen years, and how much of that success I owe to the true and single-hearted fellow labourers whom He has given me, I cannot but feel that the important lesson of that period of trial ought not to be forgotten.

If the Primitive Faith and discipline of the Church were worth contending for then, the encouragement thus far so graciously vouchsafed to our humble means and weak instrumentality should give us increased confidence in those principles to which we have had in our persons to bear witness, and so far from deserting the posts assigned to us for their maintenance, we should regard such an act as no less than the betrayal of these principles,

' ourselves as guilty of faithlessness and ingratitude to Him who has cheered us with so many undeserved tokens of His favour and goodness.

To my repeated thanks to the many friends, known and unknown, who have combined in this expression of regard and sympathy, I would only add the earnest hope that they will follow us with their continual prayers, especially seeking for us the grace of Christian love to heal our divisions, and of God's infinite mercy to make His Church in South Africa powerful to bring men of different races into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Believe me, my dear Mr. Beresford-Hope, ever yours faithfully and affectionately in Christ,

(Signed) W. Kenneth Maritzburg.

The Right Hon. A. J. B. Beresford-Hope, M.P.

"Pot-hunting," says the *Athenæum*, is a pastime sweet in every sense to the zealot who finds himself the richer for a day's work when a quaint, uncouth dish turns up and proves itself to be clumsily made and enriched with decorations in "slip" (depicting William and Mary in brown or blue of various hues), which, made seven generations since, had been piously preserved on a cottage dresser it never left except when the fat goose had to be dressed. Tygs, the very name of which touches collectors' hearts; posset-pots surviving to an age which knows not posset; lucky shoes to which legends of good fortune cling; four-handled candlesticks, not the less revered because they were never used; rolling-pins, a peculiar use of which as gifts reminds the antiquary of Egyptian rites; and, if old, the still rarer outlandish cradle in earthenware, designed for a *Morgengabe*—such are but some of the better-known objects of old English manufacture. There are, moreover, articles more recondite than these and even more useless, or intended for uses that the nineteenth century knows not. There are, too, common utensils of strange device and chimney ornaments so hideous that the spirit loathes and fears to name them.

The funeral of Earl Cairns took place on Wednesday afternoon at Bournemouth Cemetery in the presence of several thousands of spectators, the body being interred in a simple plain grave lined with moss and primroses. Among the mourners were the Marquis of Salisbury, the Earl of Tankerville, Earl Beauchamp, Sir Richard Cross, M.P., Mr. Kenneth Mackenzie (representing the Lord Chancellor), Mr. Walter, M.P., and Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, M.P. Major-General Lynedoch Gardiner, C.B., attended on behalf of the Queen, and the King and Queen of Sweden were represented by the Countess Wedel Jarlsberg and Miss Munck. There were many representatives from religious and philanthropic associations.

Painted windows as memorials of departed worth have more than ordinary interest in the eyes of all. Mr. W. G. Taylor (late O'Connor) has at all times pleasure of showing his various works for church and hall in progress, the introduction of likenesses in windows being a special study. Designs and estimates free. Medal awarded to works in Paris Exhibition.—The "Art" Works, 4, Berners-street, London.

THE DECLENSION OF ENGLAND.

M. Anatole Goujon writes as follows to the *St. James's Gazette*:—

"I remember myself, M. le Rédacteur-en-chef, of a time when the name of Great Britain was being venerated from one end to the other of Europe. You have raised then the finger of disapprobation, and all the world has trembled instantaneously; you have knitted then the eyebrows, and all the Continent has become immediately pallid; you have spoken then, and all the Ministers of civilisation have bowed themselves to the earth in resigning their portfolios. But that time there has disappeared. It is all finished. Behold now M. de Bismarck, who, in robbing from you some colonies, places maliciously the thumb to the nose, and laughs! Behold M. de Giers, who, in tearing up some treaties, mocks himself publicly of you, and throws you next the fragments in the visage! Behold also the Mahdi, who smiles calmly in the solitudes of his desert, while you beat foolishly the air and pour your milliards into the voracious sands of the Soudan! And it is everywhere the same thing. Always you have been hated: formerly one feared, to-day one despises the old blind lion.

"Truly, Monsieur, at the moment when it is, I find myself very content that I am not English. I figure to myself, nevertheless, that you others are not so content in the middle of your disgrace. You demand me what is to do. Very well! I signalise to you willingly the manner in which, if I was English, I would commence the reparation of the fortunes of my country. Where do you find the secret of the success of M. de Bismarck? It is in formulating to himself a policy, and in following it absolutely without melting himself. Where do you find the secret of the success of Russian diplomates? Is it not in the same constancy of intention? M. de Bismarck has proposed to himself to create the union of the Germanic States. He has effectuated it in following sincerely the way of blood and of iron and in hesitating never. He has proposed to himself also to establish a German colonial empire. He has established it, in despising the feeble remonstrances of England. Russia also has proposed to herself to approach the frontier of Hindustan. During two hundred years has she never forgotten that object; and to-day behold her there before the walls of Herat, and beating the drums of which the menacing sound makes itself heard in the bazaars even of Calcutta. *Tenax propositi.* It is there the secret of success; it is in the persistence and the perseverance. In falling always drop by drop the water uses the hardest stone. But you! Where is your persistence? To-day you will one thing; to-morrow you will another. Since the death of the Czar Peter the Great, we have seen more than one revolution in Russia. The monarchs have been assassinated, and the Ministers have been disgraced. Yet the diplomacy has never changed. The cry in the bureaux has always been 'To Hindustan!' During nearly two hundred years you have not had revolutions; your monarchs have not been assassinated, and your Ministers only have been peaceably dismissed. But how many diplomacies have you had in that time? I dare not say. Every day there is a new policy. One time you have said to yourself, 'Russia shall not advance more near than the Mount Airuk;' then it was Khiva that was the limit; yesterday it was Merv; to-day it is Herat; to-morrow, perhaps, it shall be Quetta, or even Lahore. Why not? In the past years I have heard in your streets a little boasting song of which the refrain commenced with 'Here stands a post!' And when one has sung it, the people have applauded with enthusiasm in crying, 'Behold the diplomacy of England!' It was ridiculous. You do not erect firmly your post in the soil. You place it rather on some wheels, and when your enemies approach it you make it recede. It is a stupid caricature of the affair of the bonnet of Gessler.

"But you answer to me, 'What you tell us is very true, Monsieur Goujon. Yet, again, what is to do? Is it not our actual Minister who effects that the country comports itself in the manner of which you mock yourself with reason?' It may be. I think, indeed, that it is very much as you say to me. Ask yourself, nevertheless, who is it that makes the Minister? Yours is a free nation: each one of you has his voice. Why do you not exact that all your Ministers shall follow a fixed diplomacy in certain foreign affairs? I comprehend entirely that your country has very well decided itself not to submit itself to the trickery of Russia. Behold there the determination of all the political parties! Yet I see every day your Ministers submit themselves like some slaves. It is you who elect the Ministers. Say not then to me, 'Regard how such a one makes us ridiculous to the eyes of the world.' It is yourself who makes yourself ridiculous. The future is with yourself. Choose Ministers who shall stand firm, and who shall not continually say one thing and act another; and then I will commence to believe that Great Britain is still what she was in the past time. But in the interval you must not cry out and demand sympathy."

SPRING FASHIONS.

There is a fancy this season, says the *Daily News*, for rough surfaces and an unkempt appearance in the woollen fabrics that are prepared for dresses. Smoothness seems to be at a discount, and in some cases the roughness is carried to such an extreme that the uninitiated might imagine the right side to be the wrong, whereon the fag-ends had been drawn down for concealment. The basis of many of the new materials used for walking costumes is the ordinary house-flannel, with its coarse lines translated into the softest of wool, but still retaining the roughness of appearance that characterises the useful original article. Others are manufactured upon the model of the scouring-cloth, which is even reproduced in the matter of colour, the natural tint of the wool after it has passed through the processes that render it fit for weaving into wearable tissues. Many of these new fabrics are of great lightness, a quality which permits the tailor or dressmaker to use a great quantity of stuff in draperies without seriously incommoding the wearer. It is not unusual for a walking costume to weigh ten or eleven pounds, and when the weight of the other garments is added to this, the clothing becomes a serious burden to carry about. With these new stuffs the weight can be reduced by quite one-half, if not even more, while still retaining the numerous folds in which the present fashion drapes the long polonaises that are again in favour. The cushion at the back continues to be indispensable, but the crinolette is no longer seen. The last vestige has disappeared, even from the purlieus of Pimlico. It may possibly be lingering in the wilds of Islington, but it has long been banished by Belgravia, scorned of South Kensington, and rejected by Bayswater.

The little mid-season capes of plush, trimmed with chenille fringes, are thoroughly acceptable at the present moment, when, owing to the presence of the east wind, the shady side of the street is arctic of temperature, while the sunny one is as redolent of warmth and summer as a day in June. These little capes, being warmly lined, protect the chest, shoulders, neck, and arms. They reach for an inch or so below the waist, where the multiplied folds of the skirt afford even more than the necessary warmth. Brown is the favourite colour for these short plush mantles, but they are also to be seen in red, peacock-blue, sapphire, myrtle-green, and biscuit colour. This last is a useful tint which harmonises with almost every colour, and thus recommends itself to true economists. Though it is the fashion of the hour to have a mantle, bonnet, and muff to match each dress, it is only those who must thrust themselves in the very van of all these frivolous changes who trouble themselves to obey all the wearisome dicta of the fickle goddess. To have one complete and consistent visiting dress in the wardrobe, carried out into every detail from bonnet to gloves, is sufficient for many women; and for ordinary wear they take care to select such articles as will admit of their occasionally donning any dresses that may remain in good condition from last year. To be brown, or blue, or green, or café-au-lait from head to foot, is to be in the very height of the mode, but to ordinary mortals this is a troublesome and expensive state of things to live up to. This is probably why so many Englishwomen persistently wear black when attired for walking, a colour that is far from being universally becoming, and shows every smallest trace of mud or dust in our variable climate.

Bonnets are now trimmed with all the spring flowers that are at present in season. White or pink or purple hyacinths are grouped in the centre of a black or brown bonnet, and arranged with more height in front than we have been accustomed as yet to see. The sides are pinched in quite close to the head. For the summer drawn net and lisse will be in favour for the composition of bonnets. Unfortunately, birds are still used as trimmings, a fashion which is not only cruel and in very bad taste, but also throws out of employment many of the women and girls employed in Paris and London and other cities in the manufacture of artificial flowers, which would be worn if little birds were abandoned for the purposes of so-called ornament. It would be well if Englishwomen could realise that to a thoughtful mind their dress trimmings and bonnet decorations of slaughtered birds convey a feeling of repulsion that is all the stronger when the wearer is young and beautiful. On hats there are sometimes as many as nine birds seen in one group. In some cases they are not real, but are made out of brightly-tinted chenille and other soft woollen things, but in the majority of instances they are our songbirds, or the more brilliant if less musical denizens of tropical groves. How much better suited to the freshness of a bright young English face is a bunch of primroses or a cluster of lilies of the valley, or small hepatica, set among their broad, cool leaves! The reflection that to adopt flowers as trimmings will be affording a means of livelihood to hundreds of one's poorer sisters would, it might be imagined, be a sufficient reason, if no other existed, for rejecting the little murdered birds; but this is unfortunately far from being the case, and it is well known that when the hideous fashion first came in, so universally was it adopted, that want and misery entered into thousands of homes where artificial flower-making had previously provided the means of life. Hundreds of willing workers, whose occupation was gone, were thrown upon the various parishes, and not a few died of starvation rather than enter the workhouses.

Among the more extraordinary of the eccentricities of fashion is the wearing of a donkey's ear by many of the best-dressed women in Paris. This curious freak began last autumn, and even now some of the newest bonnets show a long, silken, velvety grey or brown ear embedded in a bunch of purple thistles. Watercress-green is a favourite colour for bonnet-strings, and is seen in moiré ribbons in conjunction with black. The winter past and summer coming are both illustrated in a little bonnet made of bottle-green tulle, with a brim of sealskin, and moiré strings matching the colour of the tulle. It is rather early just yet for coloured straws; but they are promised later on in every shade of the fashionable colours—mastic, bronze, olive, brickdust, almond-colour, and myrtle-green. Persian and Indian embroideries are to be much used on bonnets this season. The skill with which brilliant tints are so mingled in these as to produce a subdued effect will always render them acceptable to colourists. Tuscan straw is expected to be in great favour this summer. Its deep tone of colour harmonises completely with the warm shades of brown and the full tints of moss-green and bronze that are so much in favour. It also goes happily with the pale hues of greyish green known as réséda or mignonette. Some of the palest of these exactly resemble in colour the lichens that grow on stones and some trees. Beads still appear in profusion upon bonnets. Some are extremely large, and as many as three rows are occasionally seen, forming a coronet above the hair. It is possible that strings may partially disappear when warmer zephyrs blow. They have been found too indispensably comfortable during the prevalence of the east wind for any one to do without them.

The newest mantles are curiously straight in cut. Accustomed as we are to see a mass of folds at the back, starting from below the waist, it seems odd and meagre to note the straight line, of necessity opened up the centre, that now replaces heavy pleats. This new form is analogous to the change in the shape of men's greatcoats, which no longer fit closely into the figure, but present a loose and baggy appearance that tends to make the wearer look round-shouldered, and in some cases is so decided as to lead one to infer that the overcoat had been made for a larger individual than its owner. For ladies' coats the favourite materials are the brocaded gauzes with which we were familiar last year, and many varieties of openwork grenadines and canvases. These latter are admirable for dust cloaks, which already, early as it is in the season, have begun to put in an appearance. So dry and dusty has been the month of March of the present year, that a light cloak has proved a valuable protector to sealskin, velvet, and fur, into which dust readily enters, but is not speedily or easily dislodged. Woollen lace is much in vogue at present for trimming mantles, dresses, and children's frocks. It is sometimes almost smothered in embroidery, which adds appreciably to both weight and cost. Coloured laces seem to be more popular than ever, and it is now almost forgotten that they were, in the beginning of their career, considered to be heresies against the doctrines of good taste.

A correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* gives an amusing account of the meeting in St. James's Hall on Thursday week to protest against the continuance of the war in the Soudan:—"It can scarcely be described as an unqualified success, but was largely a demonstration on the part of the admirers and followers of Mr. Bradlaugh, who mentioned that he had summoned the meeting at the request and expense of a member of the Positivist Society. The spirit of hostility to all things Christian which distinguishes these gentlemen was expressed rather unpleasantly on two or three occasions—thus, a reference by Mr. Storey to 'the Archbishops, Bishops, and clergy' was soundly hissed before the hon. gentleman had had time to make his point, that they would be conspicuous in their devotions while our soldiers, engaged in an unjust war, were fighting brave men on the solemn fast of the morrow. And when Mr. Foote (he of blasphemy-prosecutions notoriety), either by accident or design, made use of the expression 'when two or three are gathered together,' there went up a guffaw of laughter. But with these exceptions the people present were for the greater part of the proceedings unexceptionable in their demeanour. The meeting found in Mr. Bradlaugh an admirable advocate of its views, but not so satisfactory a chairman. Mr. Bradlaugh displayed too manifestly a tendency to be tyrannical where he has the power. This tendency was indeed glaring in the little drama enacted by Mr. William Morris and the chairman, which provoked the reminder (in itself a proof of the charge) that of late a conflict has waged between Mr. Bradlaugh and the Socialists. We can write thus with all the greater freedom inasmuch as Mr. Morris's seconder, misinterpreting evidently a passage in a recent article, was pleased to say that the *Pall Mall Gazette* 'ought to be execrated by every workingman'—an opinion which the meeting, by the way, declined to endorse. Impartial observers could not fail to remark that while Mr. Morris pleaded in vain for a minute beyond the 'five minutes' to which he had vaguely declared he would confine his attack upon 'capitalists and stock-jobbers,' it was plain that Mrs. Besant, who was called upon by the chairman to explain why the 'rider' could not be accepted, might have declaimed for ever, if she had so pleased. Apart from the powerful opening speech of the chairman, there was nothing striking or spirited about the proceedings proper. The speeches, if not exactly tame, were almost uniformly level in their monotony. Professor Beesly, weak in voice and style, was, perhaps, the most lively in suggestion. Mr. Storey was obviously in ill-health; Mr. Labouchere even disappointed the audience. The entertainment of the evening was provided by Professor Thorold Rogers. On the principle, that 'fools rush in,' etc., Mr. Rogers ventured upon a direct denunciation of General Gordon, upon whose shoulders he cast the entire blame for what has happened in the Soudan. This courageous attack upon the hero of Khartoum led to the only serious disturbance witnessed. Educated up to a strong dislike of military 'heroes,' and of 'Christian heroes' in particular, it was not surprising that a considerable section of the meeting cheered the disparaging utterances lustily; but there were not wanting even in such a gathering many indignant protests, and Mr. Rogers did not pursue the topic. The name greeted with the warmest cheers throughout the entire evening was Arabi Pasha's. Mr. Gladstone's—it was a most singular experience—was at first received without a manifestation of any description; it was only when Mrs. Besant eloquently besought the Premier to become again to the nation the Mr. Gladstone of the Midlothian period and the statesman of last year, with his sympathy for 'peoples struggling to be free,' that any reference to the great chief of the Liberal party was greeted with fervour. Lord Rosebery, presumably as 'a member of the house of Rothschild,' as he was described by Professor Beesly, and Mr. Goschen, as a commander of those bondholders with 'outlandish names,' were cordially hissed; but the name of Sir Charles Dilke was the most heartily hissed. The arguments heard were strong as against the attitude of the Government. The most powerful of all with the meeting was found in the eloquent reminder of Mr. Bradlaugh that 'the whip with which they flogged the Mahdi would lash their own backs.' The demonstration, as we have said, could scarcely be described as a thoroughly representative one; nor can the proceedings be said to have been marked by extraordinary enthusiasm. But they made manifest the fact that there exists a considerable body of opinion in opposition to the continuance of the war upon its present lines—indeed upon any lines; that this body of opinion is gathering force and intensity, and that it will have to be reckoned with by the Government shortly."

Caution.—Water Filtration.—The public are cautioned, before purchasing Filters, to see that what they buy are really water purifiers, and not mere strainers, which latter, although rendering water bright, do not remove the organic and mineral impurities. In the instructions to the local boards of health by order of the Privy Council it has been distinctly stated that the old sponge filters are of no avail for purifying water. These filters are constantly advertised as a new patent, whereas the Only Filters, containing nothing but the purest Animal Charcoal, are those supplied by the London and General Water-Purifying Company (Limited), 157, Strand (four doors from Somerset House), W.C.—Read "Water: its Impurities and Purification." Price 6d.

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JOHN BULL.

LONDON, APRIL 11.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

For some weeks past our eyes have been bent

Upon the Russian frontier, where
The watchers of two armies stand;

and the chance of a collision between some wild Afghan tribesman and some over-zealous Russian sub-officer has ever been present as a possible though unpleasant solution of the

difficulties of the situation. But it was with a shock of surprise that on Thursday morning the news came upon us that the armed neutrality had been broken, not by a chance encounter between outposts, but by a deliberate attack made by a Russian General on the Afghan position. The *Official Journal*, which describes this attack, talks somewhat wildly of "provocative and manifestly hostile "proceedings" by the Afghans, a form of phrase which will remind our readers of their youthful studies of Æsop, for it seems in reality to be only the old case of the Wolf and the Lamb over again. As Mr. Gladstone, himself no prejudiced critic of Russia, admits, it was only after the complete failure of their attempts to induce the Afghans to become the aggressors, that the Russians, in despair of thus inducing them, became the aggressors themselves. It is idle for the Russian organ in London to attempt, as it did last night, to saddle Captain Yate and the Afghans, rather than General Komaroff and the Russians, with the responsibility for this outbreak of hostilities. The General himself is not so skilful an apologist for an act which, in his eyes, does not need apology; and it remains to be seen whether the Russian Government will disavow his act or endeavour to justify it on the grounds semi-officially put forward on its behalf in the *Pall Mall Gazette*. The retirement of the Russian commander within his own lines, after routing the Afghan forces and inflicting upon them a severe loss, is appealed to by the Russian party in England as evidence of *bona fides*, but is probably the result of orders sent to him from St. Petersburg before publishing the official notification of the encounter. This view reconciles the discrepancy between the General's statement and Sir Peter Lumsden's as to the occupation of Penjdeh. But whether he retired of his own accord or under special orders, there is not much comfort to be derived from that retirement, and it is difficult to see how even the Gladstone Ministry can put up quietly with such an act of aggression, deliberately planned and successfully carried out. Mr. Gladstone spoke with unusual firmness and resolution on Thursday; but can we, after past experience, trust to his maintaining for any continued period the attitude befitting a Minister of England?

If the act of General Komaroff be disavowed, the effect of that act still remains, and the Ameer will hardly be consoled for the loss of men and material by the polite statements of the authorities at St. Petersburg that they are very sorry that one of their Generals should have once again shown *trop de zèle*. The manœuvre has been so often repeated during the progress of Russian advance in Central Asia, that a judicious disobedience to orders has become a necessary part of the professional qualifications of a Russian General. Indeed, it is a standing excuse urged on behalf of the Czar's Government, that it would be too unkind to hold it responsible for the acts of its officers, though we have not hitherto found this repudiation of responsibility extend to a repudiation of the advantages obtained. Khiva and Merv are standing examples, and Herat is shortly to be added to the list. If General Komaroff has really acted contrary to orders, the Czar should make a real example of him *pour encourager les autres;* but, judging from past experience, there is little probability that anything more than a formal reprimand at present, to be made up for a few months hence by promotion and decorations, will visit his disobedience. Our statesmen have no business to be satisfied with such a reparation as this; and if we own ourselves satisfied with it, what is the Ameer likely to think of his friends? He will regard it as a grimly sarcastic commentary on the speeches at Rawul Pindi. If, on the other hand, General Komaroff's act is not disavowed at all, it is difficult to see how we can abstain from treating it as a *casus belli*.

The impression produced upon the Ameer by his interview with the Viceroy is said to have been a very favourable one, and the military display, despite the weather, was very effective. At the banquets which followed each of the reviews, the Ameer made speeches protesting his regard for the Queen, and his earnest wishes for the success of her armies against her enemies. His language was still more emphatic at the great Durbar, which was a very brilliant spectacle, when he, however, plainly enough intimated that he did not expect the affection to be all on one side. "As the British "have declared that they will help Afghanistan "in repelling external enemies, the Afghan na- "tion will join in the firmest manner and stand "side by side with the British." But if the declaration is not acted up to, and our idea of repelling the external enemies of Afghanistan is to allow those enemies to make an unprovoked onslaught on Afghan troops, the Ameer can hardly be blamed if he modifies in turn his declaration, and stands side by side with somebody else. We have now to remember that in making arrangements or agreements, whatever they may be called, we have the interests and the safety of our ally to regard, as well as, or rather because, they are also our own interests and our own safety.

General Graham's advance on Tamai has been carried out without the severe fighting which seemed probable when we last wrote. But the object of the advance was not carried out, as Osman Digna declined to wait to be smashed, and Tamai itself was found to be deserted, so the only result of the expedition was the burning of the few huts of which that place consisted. Hardly any of the enemy were seen *en route*, but a few scattered parties kept up a desultory fire on our column, though without inflicting any serious loss. The wells were partly destroyed, and what water there was in them was undrinkable, so that the army had to return to Souakim, which was reached on Saturday. General Graham pays a high tribute to the vigour and energy of the troops during a toilsome and exhausting march, and the small number which fell out tells well both for the Home and the Colonial soldiers, who were very disappointed at not coming across the enemy. Native spies report of the latter that they are quite demoralised, but this has been said so often that it is not safe to put down the non-acceptance of the British challenge by Osman Digna to his having been deserted by his followers. It is just as probable that he is relying on his most trustworthy allies—sun, drought, and disease—to do his work for him. Meanwhile advantage is taken of his quiescence—whatever may be the motive of it—to push on the railway, and on Wednesday Handoub was occupied without opposition by the Guards and the Australians, who had worked with a will in clearing the bush preparatory to the laying of the line to Berber, fifty miles of which it is hoped will be completed before the troops go into summer quarters.

The French Cabinet-makers have had a busy time of it during the past week. When we last wrote it seemed probable that M. Freycinet—the Faubourg is very determined to refuse him the De which English papers are equally determined to bestow upon him—appeared to be likely to form a Ministry. But the Opportunists prevented his doing so, and M. Grevy accordingly turned to M. Constans, an Opportunist himself, but not therefore on that account more acceptable to that irreconcilable party. When M. Constans also failed, M. Brisson appeared to be the "last chance," as Mr. Sims would say; and the President of the Chamber has been induced to abandon his chair of office for the less secure Ministerial portfolio. He deserves no little credit for having thrown himself into the breach, and it is to be hoped that he has not merely fallen a victim to M. Clemenceau's determination to use up every possible rival before himself taking office with all the weight which attaches to a *pis-aller*. M. Brisson's Cabinet must be of necessity a *Cabinet d'Affaires;* but, with the rare reputation for political honesty which the new Premier possesses, we may trust that we shall find a change in the policy of corruption at home and aggression abroad which has been for so long the *mot d'ordre* of the Ministers of the Republic.

The peace between France and China, to the rumours of which we referred last week, has, despite of all probabilities, been practically concluded. In all the annals of diplomacy there is not to be found a more remarkable story. We do not refer to the circumstance, noteworthy enough in itself, that China in the flush of her recent triumphs, and France in the shame of her recent defeat, should have been each of them strong-minded enough to come to terms at all. But a yet more startling feature in the history of the negotiations is that they have apparently been carried through by the defeated French Minister after he was driven from his office in consequence of that defeat, and without the assent—indeed, even without the knowledge—of his successors. While M. Brisson was preparing war credits and pushing on war preparations to avenge the discredit of the defeat which drove M. Ferry from office, M. Ferry was, with the sanction of the President of the Republic, bringing to a successful close the peace negotiations on which he had already embarked. The result—mainly due, it is said, to the good offices of Sir Robert Hart, the English Commissioner of Customs—is matter of congratulation in the interests of France and of the Western States in general. For though the former gets nothing but what she could have got without the expenditure of blood and treasure and the sacrifice of M. Ferry, she is relieved from further expenditure and well out of a state of belligerency, not war, as unprofitable to her as that in the Soudan is to England. Other nations will be well pleased at the cessation of hostilities between France and China; for had the war—we beg pardon, the reprisals—continued to be carried on, it is only too probable that the inhabitants of the Celestial Empire would have regarded all the Outer Barbarians, and not merely the French, as mixed up in it, and we should have heard of massacres and outrages on European residents in every one of the Treaty towns. As it is, China escapes the heavy indemnity without which M. Ferry the Minister vowed that he never, never would make peace, but which has been discreetly waived by M. Ferry the ex-Minister.

The visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Ireland has, as far as it has gone, been a great success, and even the Lord Mayor of Dublin has, despite all threats to the contrary, hoisted his flag upon his official residence. An enormous crowd collected to greet the Royal visitors on their arrival, and Dublin was gaily decorated with flags and evergreens. But it must not be overlooked that there were indications of the discontent which, we fear, far more than genuine loyalty is the normal condition of Ireland, and uncomfortable stories of the breaking of windows where illuminations were visible, and of police suggestions to abstain from illuminations for fear of the consequences, are rife. It is, indeed, idle to suppose that, so late in the day, and when disaffection has got to such a head, the visit of Royalty—even of such deservedly popular representatives of Royalty as the Prince and the Princess—can at once stem the rising tide of sedition; and if the reception afforded to them is to be used an an excuse for the non-renewal of the Crimes Act, it would have been better that they should have stayed at home. The language of Mr. Sexton when he denounces land-grabbers, and of Mr. Parnell when he denounces the Prince of Wales, must be taken into account no less than the "shouting streets" of Dublin. But when we see these "shouting streets" we cannot but regret that disaffection should have been allowed to get to a head before so obvious a remedy against its getting to a head was employed.

The weather, though cold for the holiday-makers, was not so unfavourable as it might have been, and the Volunteers made, as usual, good use of their Easter outing. Our citizen army has indeed many shortcomings, and those are by no means its truest friends who try to gloss them over. But while recognising those shortcomings, it would be most ungrateful and unpatriotic not to recognise at the same time the great advance both in discipline and efficiency which has been made by the Volunteers, and the fact that they have lived down and overcome the official apathy, almost amounting to hostility, which hampered their earlier development. It is for many reasons to be regretted that a day so sacred in its associations as Good Friday should be so completely given up as it now is to the Volunteer movement, and we should be glad to welcome some change in the programme which would dispense with the necessity for long marches and for military preparations on that most solemn of all anniversaries. But at the same time the Volunteers, who sacrifice so much to the cause of Defence not Defiance, may plead more excuse for themselves than many others of our fellow-countrymen, to whom that day is a mere pretext for idleness and for amusement far less harmless than the hard work to which our citizen soldiers betake themselves upon it. As a military rather than a religious question, there can be no doubt that the four days' practice is very valuable, but it might be made still more valuable if it were attempted to give something more of reality to the manœuvres. We have already made a good advance from the stage of military education when the march-past was all in all. We cannot but hope for a further advance, and that we may see in future years the carrying out of the admirable suggestion made by men of experience, that now, once more, as in the days when Napoleon was encamped on the heights above Boulogne, certain definite local duties may be assigned to the various corps, so that if our shores should be invaded every man may know where his proper post is, and the efficiency of our amateur garrison may not be wasted by want of local knowledge.

We are glad that the civic magistracy has shown itself possessed of sufficient backbone to deal seriously with the perpetrator of the disgraceful outrage at St. Paul's on Good Friday morning. It has been too long supposed that what are called religious convictions of the extreme Protestant type justify any aggression upon the religious convictions, indeed upon the sense of decency, of the ordinary English Churchman; but Mr. Beere, who in the fervour of his religious zeal (!) swept chalice, paten, and altar vessels on to the floor while the Dean of St. Paul's was engaged in celebrating the most solemn service of the Church, has, we hope, been taught a lesson which will not be lost on others equally crazy or equally bent on notoriety with that enlightened follower in the steps of the Church Association. As was well pointed out by the prosecuting counsel, such misconduct is catching; and to the lightness with which the previous exhibitions of it both in the Cathedral itself and in other parts of London have been passed over, is without doubt to be attributed this last flagrant outrage. It is, of course, difficult to realise the state of mind of the religious, or rather irreligious, fanatic who thus thinks that he is doing God service, and the excuse of insanity not unnaturally suggests itself. But there is too much method in the madness of the perpetrators of these outrages; they do but too logically carry out the teaching of the noisy and turbulent busybodies who band themselves together against all that is done decently and in order, to allow this plea to prevail. We wish that we could believe that the plea of temporary insanity could be fairly urged in behalf of the Church Association and all its work.

THE "UNHAPPY INCIDENT."

The question at issue between ourselves and Russia has entered upon an entirely new phase. In view of the grave intelligence of two days ago, the whole of the controversy about the Afghan frontier—the nice disputes about this line and that, the discussions and suggestions, the affirmations and contradictions of the partisans on either side—have practically become obsolete. The negotiations had, indeed, previously reached something very like an *impasse*, in consequence of the amazingly impudent proposal of Russia that the Joint Commission should include in its survey a large tract of country which even she herself had never hitherto questioned was well within the dominions of the Ameer. All this, however, belongs to the past. The question that has now to be solved possesses far greater simplicity. The issue is one of fact. It is true that Russia has not declared war against Afghanistan; but has she not already begun war without declaring it? Has she or has she not broken her engagement—made to us and not to the Ameer—to abstain from any further advance pending negotiations? The *primâ facie* case against Russia is that on the 16th of March the Czar's Foreign Minister solemnly pledged his Imperial Master's word that the Russian troops should not advance from the positions they then occupied, on condition that the Afghans should also abstain from making any advance; but that, notwithstanding this promise, General Komaroff on the 30th of March made a deliberate and unprovoked attack upon the Afghans at Penjdeh, without giving any previous notice of the commencement of hostilities. That is, in brief, the case against Russia, as it appeared on Thursday night, after Mr. Gladstone's two statements on the subject. Yesterday, however, an apparently official Russian explanation was forthcoming, to the effect that the action of General Komaroff was necessitated by the provocative proceedings of the Afghans. The provocation is alleged to have been given by the forward movement of the whole of the Afghan forces across the Kushk river to Pul-i-Khisti, a position which was by the agreement in the occupation of the Russian troops. Hence, it is pretended, General Komaroff had no alternative but to drive the Afghans back again.

We have no hesitation in saying that, by the light of Sir Peter Lumsden's information, the whole of this precious story falls to the ground. For why was it that the bulk of the Afghan forces crossed the Kushk? It was because the Russians were "immediately threatening an "attack on the Afghan position." Surely it was hardly to be expected that the Afghans would stand still where they were, to receive the

Russian assault. Sir Peter Lumsden assures us that up to this time the Afghans had religiously abstained from making any advance whatever. It was only on the 29th of March, when they were menaced by an immediate attack, that they were obliged to adopt the purely defensive measure of throwing out vedettes and extending their pickets, and subsequently of strengthening this new position with the bulk of their force. Sir Peter Lumsden places the matter in its proper light when he declines to consider this movement as a real advance. It was merely, as he says, "the "occupation of a more advantageous position" in view of a threatened Russian aggression. How seriously they were menaced Sir Peter Lumsden's evidence shows quite clearly. Twice previously the Russians had tried to induce the Afghans to begin the fight by breaking through the line of Afghan pickets, and finally, on the 29th of March, "the Russians were drawn up in force "almost with in the range of the Afghan posi-"tion, although the Afghans had neither attacked "nor advanced, and Penjdeh was perfectly tran-"quil." That the Russians were the aggressors is, therefore, as clear as day. The slaughter of the Afghans by General Komaroff was a base deed of treachery; but duplicity of this kind is exactly what all history might have led us to expect from the Muscovite Government. The value of Russian pledges is too notorious to leave any room for surprise at what has occurred now.

Mr. Gladstone stated last night that the Russian Government had called upon General Komaroff for an explanation of his conduct. It is possible that the Czar's Ministers will disavow the action of their military subordinate. That is a course which has before now been found highly convenient, even when the subordinate has only acted on instructions from his superiors. In the present case it is difficult to believe that General Komaroff would have taken so serious a step on his own responsibility. However that may be, the duty of England will, in default of due and ample reparation, be clear. The quarrel is none of our seeking. So far from having done anything to provoke it, we have been over-scrupulous in seeking peace. Every concession that could be made we have made. We have now reached the limits of British patience. If it is a question of maintaining the existence of the Empire, if the choice is between war with Russia and abandonment of India, even our weak-kneed Prime Minister and his jelly-fish colleagues can hardly dare to shirk the paramount obligation of detending India. Should, therefore, the Czar's Government refuse to disavow this act of audacious aggression, there can remain only one course open to this country. The English people will deeply regret the necessity thus forced upon them; but they will neither shrink from it nor attempt to evade it. The ancient spirit of the British nation and the knowledge that they are fighting in a just cause will nerve them to a struggle which seems sooner or later inevitable, and which they will know how to maintain with unflagging perseverance to the bitter end.

THE OUTLOOK IN FRANCE.

Once more—for the same thing has occurred on former occasions—the world has witnessed the edifying spectacle in France of the highest office but one in the State going a-begging, while a Treaty of Peace has positively had to wait to be signed for the simple reason that there was no one to sign it. What are we to think of the patriotism of politicians who, having combined together to overthrow a Ministry, are so jealous of each other that none of them are able to fulfil the task of forming an Administration to carry on the government of the country? We are not much concerned with the efforts of some of our contemporaries to disentangle for the benefit of English readers the intricacies of Radical intrigue in France. The upshot of the whole situation is that a parcel of low Revolutionists and frowsy Jacobins have been engaged in squabbling with each other and scrambling for place, and that the power which has, as usual, settled the matter, is that of the Freemasons. The Masonic sect first created the Revolution, and it is they who have now for a whole century dominated its action. Freemasonry is the hidden mainspring that keeps the machinery of the Republic in movement, and M. Brisson's elevation to the Premiership is due to the fact that he is a leading member of the Masonic body. His advent to power possesses no special significance. There is not much to choose among the Ferrys and the Clemenceaus, the Brissons and the Freycinets, the Floquets and the Fallieres, and all the rest of the Revolutionary scum that rises to the top of the troubled waters of French politics. The new Cabinet may live for a long or a short time—no one can predict its future. Nor does it in the least matter how long it lasts, as it is sure to be succeeded by another of the same type—Jacobin, Masonic, and Anti-Christian.

Meanwhile the comic element in the situation—if there could be anything comic in the spectacle of a great and ancient nation wallowing in the depths of Revolutionary degradation—would be supplied by the absurd misapprehension which hurled M. Ferry from office. At almost the very moment when the unhappy man was being denounced, menaced, bawled at, execrated, and howled down in the Chamber, the preliminaries of peace between France and China were being successfully negotiated. That redoubtable Assembly, behaving after its wont in a manner that recalls nothing so vividly as the excited scenes to be commonly witnessed in the ape-house of a menagerie, would listen to neither reason nor remonstrance. M. Ferry and his colleagues were condemned by an enormous majority for having mismanaged the Chinese War; and they had no sooner resigned office than the discovery was made that under their auspices terms of peace honourable to France had been accepted by China. M. Ferry's way of avenging his defeat was eminently characteristic of a French politician. He concealed from his successors the fact that the negotiations for peace had been brought to a successful issue; and when they at last made the discovery that peace had been actually concluded, they had just asked Parliament for a Vote of Credit for the prosecution of a war that was already finished.

France may certainly congratulate herself upon having got so cheaply and so easily out of a contest which, had it been continued, would probably have cost her dear in more ways than one. Frenchmen will have no reason to look back with pride upon their recent achievements in the East. Their Government began the war with China by acts of injustice and aggression; they carried it on by methods of absolute barbarity; they have now concluded it after a discreditable defeat—a fact which not even their diplomatic success can avail to disguise. Neither at home nor abroad can France discover the least reason to be contented with the manner in which her affairs are conducted under the Republican *régime*. Yet there are, we must own, no signs of its being soon replaced by anything better. Cæsarism in the person of its present representative has become of late years something more than contemptible. As to the prospects of a Restoration of the Legitimate and Constitutional Monarchy, there is, we regret to think, nothing in the least degree hopeful to be said at present. Royalists are weary of seeking for guidance from a Leader who never leads, and of finding their loyalty and devotion rewarded by coldness and discouragement. The saying, *Il y a deux Frances*, is just as true as ever it was; but as one of them is active in propagating mischief, and the other is apathetic in the promotion of good, it cannot be said that there is much in the existing prospects of the French nation to bring comfort to those who have her welfare and prosperity at heart.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO IRELAND.

The reception of the Prince and Princess of Wales in Dublin is commonly spoken of as a "success." That it has succeeded in eradicating, or even in seriously diminishing, whatever spirit of disaffection may exist in the Irish capital it would be absurd to imagine for a moment. The causes of Irish hostility to the Union—to say nothing of downright sedition—are too deep-seated to be removed by any number of Royal visits. Yet, for all that, the public reception of our future King and Queen in Dublin has doubtless done good, and good of an important kind. In the first place, we think it very likely that the Loyalists have discovered that they are stronger in numbers than they thought they were. It is curious to note how large a part Noise plays in this world, and how frequently Noise is mistaken for Numbers. People are often surprised, when they come actually to count Numbers, how vastly they have been misled in their former calculations by Noise masquerading as Numbers. So, in this case, it is surely a good thing for the Loyalists, and a great encouragement, to find that in Dublin at all events they form a more numerous and influential proportion of the population than they perhaps had supposed.

Next, we cannot but think that many even of those—especially among the poor—who are opponents of the Union, have been touched, and perhaps a little softened, by this visit, especially considering the chief object which the Prince of Wales had in view in crossing St. George's Channel. To our minds, by far the most important act of the Prince, since he set foot on Irish soil, has been his little tour of inspection among the Dublin slums on Thursday morning. We can fancy that an objector might ask sneeringly, "What good can even a Prince do by "a mere hurried inspection of a few poor tene-"ments?" The answer is that, directly, he can do very little good, but that, indirectly, he may do a great deal. The point is that the Prince has shown his deep sympathy with the hard lot of the poor, and we feel quite sure that such a kindly act cannot fail to elicit a kindly response in return. Probably the majority of the Dublin poor are in more or less sympathy with what is called Nationalism. But it does not follow that every Nationalist, or even that most Nationalists, go the lengths of, for example, the atrocious ruffians who are responsible for such a vile print as *United Ireland*. We should not dream of insulting the Irish poor by supposing it possible for a moment. And therefore we say that one great and real good which the Prince and Princess of Wales have effected by their visit is that they have probably evoked, even from the hearts of many in the humbler ranks of life who hold Nationalist opinions a feeling of kindliness and gratitude which, if not exactly the same as loyalty, is perhaps not very far removed from it.

And then in Ireland, where party spirit runs high, there is doubtless also a large and potentially weighty proportion of the community which has not actually attached itself to either of the extreme political parties. For instance, there must be many Irish Catholics who, while on the one hand they shrink altogether from supporting the Revolutionists and "spouters of stale sedition" who pretend to be the only true exponents of Irish patriotism, feel entirely averse from co-operating with Orangemen. We cannot be surprised that Catholics, however well disposed to the cause of Order, should hesitate to associate themselves with the traditional enemies of their Faith. On the other hand, however ardent may be their love of their country, and even their desire for Home Rule in Isaac Butt's sense of the term, they cordially detest the whole gang of Parnellite Anarchists and Secret Society men, whose dark tenets and darker deeds have been repeatedly censured and condemned by the Church. It is this great middle party who will perhaps be influenced most of all by the Royal visit to Ireland. It affords them an opportunity of giving expression to their loyalty to their Queen without appearing to betray the higher loyalty which they owe to their Faith. If this were the only result of the two weeks' sojourn of the Prince and Princess in Dublin and elsewhere, they might be congratulated upon having rendered an important service to Ireland.

THE COMMUNIST PROGRAMME.

It is, in a sense, a satisfactory thing to know what it is that the Communists of the day want—to have their demands definitely formulated. One feels that now one knows the worst. A paper lies before us, written by a Mr. D. Chatterton, and entitled "The Commune in "England: The Organ for Smashing up Kings, "Queens, Princes and Priests, Policemen, Prigs "and Paupers, Land and Money-Mongers, and "Rogues and Rascals of all Degrees." We can only say of it that the contents are worthy of the title. Without pausing to inquire whether or no the policy of this "Organ" is suicidal, we come to the first premiss, which is that everyone must work to produce an amount corresponding to that which he or she uses of the products of Nature. If not, so many poor people toil to keep the rich in luxury and idleness. And the deduction is, to say the least, a striking one. Everyone who fails to satisfy this canon "must be a thief, a "murderer of the deepest dye—your Queen of "England, your Prince of Wales, the Duke "of Edinburgh, Duke of Cambridge, the "Duke of Westminster, Duke of Suther-"land, the Marquis of Bute, the Duke of "Devonshire, your Earl Derby, your Glad-"stones, Samuel Morleys, your Walter "Morisons, your Brasseys, and your Rothschilds, and the whole host of land and "money robbers—are nought but a gang of "licensed swindlers and murderers, a curse "and a pest to the community, a very plague-"spot on our boasted civilisation, of whom we "shall never be rid only by a revolution, "which shall force them into the ranks of "labour, or, failing that, sweep them off the "face of the earth by utter annihilation."

What in the name of common sense is to prevent the brother and sister industrialists of Mr. D. Chatterton from organising for the entire overthrow, the smashing up of Kings, Queens, and the rest of the catalogue, as repeated from the title already quoted? It appears that the one thing needful for attainment of this comprehensive consummation is a "true know-"ledge of that grand ideal that all human-"kind are equal." It is unnecessary, in this line of argument, to inquire how long it would be before one or more men rose from the dead level from which all are, *ex hypothesi*, to start. It is idle to consider that, other things being equal, one man's brains and another's industry will quickly raise them above their fellows. Assuming all that Mr. D. Chatterton asks us to assume—namely, that all property was stolen in the first instance, and that it should at once revert to its rightful owners, the people—is not this a simple reversal of the order of things, in which the people will be the lords and the lords the people, and the nation as a whole no whit nearer the Communists' goal, equality? Surely the same evil will quickly exist as that which Mr. Chatterton portrays in the peroration of his work, a passage in which the eccentricities of grammar are almost as notable as the mixtures of metaphor. "They"—Mr. Chatterton means the Lords, but we suggest the people—"will use your order as soldiers, sailors, and "policemen, until you have become enlightened "enough to tell them that you will fight no longer "for them, that the day of retribution is come, "that they have in their mad career of haughty "pride and assumption drove the iron so deep "to your heart and brain that it is now a revo-"lution of the belly without brains, a revolution "at once so bloody-minded and destructive as to "annihilate all into chaos, out of the ashes of "which may the Commune of the future spring "forth like a beautiful flower, whose petals are "the germs from whence emanate the lives and "aspirations of a community at once securing "life, liberty, and happiness to all."

What, then, is it that the Communist demands by the mouth of this eloquent exponent of his views? "First, every woman and man of the "age of twenty shall have and use her and his "rights of citizenship, to vote in all matters of "government, to vote a Senate to frame their "laws who shall within the term of one month "submit every law, statute, or enactment so "drafted to be confirmed or not by the voice "of the people, taken by means of the ballot-"paper sent to every citizen." We forbear to contemplate the plethora of ballot-papers on every breakfast-table, or the danger of a break-down in a machinery constructed on these lines. Then Education is to be universal, secular, free, and compulsory. "Every child, no matter "what the condition of the parent" (and all the parents are *ex concessis* equal), is, for Mr. Chatterton will forgive our supplying the deficiencies in his grammatical method, "to "stand side by side and receive the same high "standard of educational, industrial, social, "and political culture." The next demand is for the "nationalisation of all lands, houses, "mines, fisheries, and seas, the mercantile "marine and railway service of our country, as "trustees in perpetuity, in the use of all citizens "of the State." It does not clearly appear who are to be the trustees. Perhaps the writer is wise in not further particularising them, for, when everyone in the State is a *cestui que trust*, it may be difficult to find even a single trustee. Then we are to have an arrangement of the monetary and labour laws—whatever they may be—so as to render injustice impossible. This arrangement of laws which must be assumed to exist seems, however, somewhat inconsistent with the next and final demand, which is for the "repeal now and for "ever of all past Acts of Parliament, laws, "statutes, or enactments, either local or "Imperial." This is to be one of the labours of the Senate of the future, which will also appoint "land boards, a works board—all "appointments to be scrutinised by the "people's vote." Truly Mr. D. Chatterton and his brother and sister industrialists will have a wondrous cosmos of their own, if and when they have their way.

Reviews.

A NEW VOLUME OF POEMS.*

Mr. Austin's new volume takes its name from the first of the poems which it contains, but might more fittingly have taken it from that "Defence "of English Spring" which is to be found later on in this volume, but in reality strikes its keynote. Indeed the whole volume constitutes such a defence, and we may feel grateful to the matter-of-fact critic in the *Pall Mall Gazette* whose vigorous diatribe in prose called forth so vigorous a protest in verse. The critic spoke of the "artificial springtide of our imitative Northern "poets," and maintained that there was something ridiculous in adapting language suited to the classical calendar of Virgil and Theocritus to "that alternation of swirling dusty nor'-easters "and boisterous drenching sou'-westers which we "in England recognise as spring." This onslaught on his most cherished poetical prepossessions inspired Mr. Austin to make an eloquent protest against such a heresy, and this protest is emphasised and repeated in almost every one of the poems of which the present volume is composed. The author is indeed one

> Whose numbers ring
> With woodnotes of the English Spring.

But, at the same time, when we remember the prominent part played by Mr. Austin in current politics, it is difficult to repress a smile when we hear him with poetic fervour profess that

> The loud gusts of blame and praise
> That blow about your London ways
> To me are but as wind that shrills
> About my orchard daffodils.

This we can hardly believe of so keen a politician, who, to use his own phrase is wont to

> Blend within his dual life
> The patriots pen, the poet's song;

and we are startled at the abrupt contrast which is presented between the leader-writer and the essayist, who maintains so energetically the cause of his Country and his Queen, and the ideal poet who, far from city strife, listens not to the verbose rhetoric of the Grand Old Man declaiming on Egypt and on finance, but rather to the woodnotes wild, when

> From its moist and lowly bed,
> The lark mounts up aloft to shed,
> In heavenly fields beyond our view,
> Music still drenched with earthly dew.
> The robin, that in winter cheers
> With its lone voice our lonelier ears,
> Though warbling still on neighbouring bough,
> Sings all unheard, unnoticed now.
> Chatter the jays, the starlings flute,
> There's not a single throat that's mute.
> From tree to tree the finches flit,
> Not once their carols intermit.
> The willow-warbler mounts, then drops,
> And in his silvery solo stops
> Just as it bubbles to the brim,
> To hark if any answer him.
> High on a bare conspicuous spray,
> That none may doubt who chants the lay,
> Proud of his undisputed skill
> To breast whatever note he will,
> The thrush runs revelling all along
> The spacious gamut of his song;
> Varies, inverts, repeats the strain,
> Then sings it different again.
> The blackbird, less expert than he,
> Coaxes and scolds alternately;
> Then, with a sudden scream and rush,
> Is off into another bush,
> Feigning to fear for life and limb,
> Though none have interfered with him.
> But listen! ne'er on urban bough
> Was perched the note you caught just now.
> Hush! move a little down the lane;
> When we have passed, he'll start again.
> There! Did you ever hear a strain
> Of such apotheosized pain,
> Such sadness almost sung to bliss,
> Blending of woe and joy like this?
> Yes, he descants all day, despite
> The name he borrows from the night.
> Though then perchance the wails increase,
> When doth true anguish ever cease!
> He is the poet-bird that sings
> Through joy, through sorrow, through all things.
> 'Tis only we that do not hark
> Until our own bright days grow dark.

Few would think that he who thus writes is in reality so much engrossed in all the turmoil and deafening hubbub of party politics. But we are glad that one who can write so eloquently on English spring should not be entirely given up to the contemplation of it as the time when Parliament meets.

It is certainly pleasant in an age when so much of what claims to be poetry is morbid and unwholesome to come across a writer who does not hesitate to speak of himself as—

> Being right glad that I was born
> And thankful that I live.

This sense of enjoyment in that which is given us richly to enjoy, this belief that life is indeed worth living, comes across us with a glow of fresh and healthy life which would of itself lend no little charm to Mr. Austin's volume. We are not altogether prepared to acquiesce in much of his nature-worship, and some of the lessons which he draws from his delight in the springtide are Pagan rather than Christian in their spirit. But it is not for the lessons ethical or religious which he has to teach that Mr. Austin's readers will turn to his new volume. It is rather because it embodies so much that is graceful and pleasing in the outward aspect of our English springtime as figured by the poet, not the meteorologist. It is throughout an English spring of which he sings, even when, as in the title-piece of the volume, he transfers his scene to Italy. *The Gate of the Convent*, which is that title-piece, tells how the poet-politician lingered to say farewell to the Prior of whose hospitality he had for three nights availed himself. One speech of the Prior's is not altogether polite, when he suggests to his guest:—

> You have perhaps discreetly drunk,
> O then, discreetly, drink no more!

But the guest, perhaps offended at this suggestion, declines his offer of the peace and tranquillity of the cloister cell, and announces his intention—

> To found a convent in my breast,
> And keep a cloister in my heart.

But the cloister and convent is one which, in the outward aspects of Nature to which the poet appeals, breathes more the spirit of England than of Italy. This is not, however, because the poet's muse is incapable of gathering its inspiration from Parnassus as well as from the Surrey hills. In one of the most striking passages in the present volume he recalls how—

> In that fair tract 'twixt hill and main,
> I sang of in my earliest strain,
> Where fades not flower, nor falls the leaf,
> And Godfrid brought Olympia grief,
> Oft have I heard, as Spring comes round,
> The snow-fed streams begin to sound;
> Oft have I seen the almonds bloom
> Round Dante's cradle, Petrarch's tomb;
> Been there when banksia roses fall
> In cataracts over Tuscan wall;
> Oft watched Rome's dead Campagna break
> To asphodels for April's sake;
> Smelt the green myrtle browsed and left
> By clambering goats in Ischian cleft;
> Gathered the cistus-blooms that lay,
> Like flecks of fresh unmolted spray,
> Round Paleocastrizza's bay;
> Drunk of the nectar wafted o'er
> The wave from Zante's perfumed shore;
> Plucked Delphi's flowering bays that twine
> No garlands now for brows divine;
> Stretched me on Acro-Corinth's brow,
> Just when the year was young as now;
> Have half-way up Hymettus heard
> In Attic grove the Attic bird;
> Sailed past the crimson Judas-trees
> That flame o'er Stamboul's narrow seas,
> And harked the cuckoo, from the shore,
> Bid wintry Danube thaw once more.
> But none of these, nor all, can match,
> At least for him who loves to watch
> The wild-flowers come, hear wild birds sing,
> The rapture of an English Spring.

The poet claims a special right to sing the praises of that season of the year on personal grounds, the statement of which forms the prelude to his present volume; but about the earlier stanzas there is a reminiscence of the opening chapters of *Tristram Shandy*, which rather interferes with its poetical effect. Indeed, we are not sure that the personal element is not somewhat unduly prominent throughout; but this is one of the poet's characteristic faults, which his numerous admirers will gladly pardon in consideration of the additional spirit and individuality which are thus given to his song.

We have dwelt mainly on that glorification of an English spring which is the chief theme on which Mr. Austin's muse here dilates, but there are other poems in the volume which are not inspired by the same motive. Among these we would specially mention the very plaintive and touching verses entitled "Dead," which we must quote in their entirety, not wishing to mar their effect by any mutilation or suppression:—

> I.
> Hush! or you will wake her. Softly tread!
> She slumbers in her little bed.
> What do I see? A coffin! Dead!
> Yes, dead at break of morning.
>
> II.
> No, no, it cannot, cannot be!
> I know that I can wake her. See!
> She only plays at sleep. *Ma mie*,
> Kiss me, for it is morning.
>
> III.
> Look, pretty, look! Within, without,
> Snowdrops and hyacinths lie about.
> Why don't you clutch them with a shout
> Blither than birds of morning?
>
> IV.
> You used to clap your hands with glee,
> When I brought flowers. "Are those for me?"
> Now, now, you neither scent nor see
> These incense-buds of morning.
>
> V.
> Do you not know me, pet! Speak! speak!
> There is no answer in her cheek.
> To find her now where shall I seek?—
> Seek in the vanished morning!
>
> VI.
> What can I do to make her heed?
> I am crying, love; I am indeed.
> Open your eyes and see. What need
> To tease me all the morning?
>
> VII.
> Look! We will sally forth and play.
> Ramble, and never ask our way,
> Lessons and tasks all put away
> As though it were not morning.
>
> VIII.
> We will do all that you desire,
> And I will never, never tire
> Of romping with you by the fire,
> When 'tis no longer morning.
>
> IX.
> Your favourite tales, oft told before,
> I'll tell you, darling, o'er and o'er;
> It never shall be bedtime more,
> Will you but wake this morning.
>
> X.
> I will not ask you to sit still;
> You shall be naughty when you will;
> Shall spill my ink and spoil my quill,
> And squander all my morning.
>
> XI.
> Alas! Alas! it is no cheat!
> Quiet she lies from face to feet!
> No smile, no sigh, no hue, no heat,
> No earnest of the morning.
>
> XII.
> Draw high the sheet above her head.
> She liked it so. Dead? No, not dead.
> The angels, hovering round her bed,
> Will greet her in the morning.

There is perhaps a certain sense of unreality in the subject here treated, and we can fancy Mr. Wyke Bayliss including it among his "Hob-goblins;" but, admitting the fitness of the subject for poetic treatment, the manner in which it is treated is beyond praise, and no one but a true poet could have so dealt with it. It is such work as this which testifies to Mr. Austin's claims to rank as a poet and justifies us in devoting so much space to the volume before us.

* *At the Gate of the Convent, and Other Poems.* By Alfred Austin.—London: Macmillan and Co., 1885.

A UNIVERSITY LIBERAL.*

The late Rector of Lincoln was a striking personage in the University of Oxford, and his ungainly, shambling figure was familiar in "the High" and where Dons most do congregate. He combined an unusual degree of self-depreciation with an unusual degree of self-appreciation, and it was difficult to say whether he formed—or, at least, whether he expressed—a lower estimate of himself or of those who ventured to differ from him. He occupied a position probably unique in the history of the University during the half a century and more of his connection with it. In saying this, we are by no means willing to class him with the intellectual and religious giants of that half-century. To speak of him in the same breath with Newman, or with Pusey, with James Mozley, or even with James Anthony Froude, to whom he was nearest akin, would be an absurdity. But he is distinguished as an example of a man who passed through the whole stage of feeling at Oxford, from the one extreme to the other—from the utmost limit of Tractarianism to the utmost limit of Rationalism. The record of the experience of such a transition cannot fail to be interesting, though much of the interest may be of a painful character. In his posthumous memoirs he has given us the history of his mind, dwelling with a somewhat supercilious contempt on his temporary absorption into the Oxford Movement, and at the same time glorying in the Liberal reaction, when, as he puts it, "the perversion of "Newman delivered Oxford from the nightmare "which had oppressed it for fifteen years." It has been given but to few to feel so strongly in both directions, and the verdict which must be passed on these conflicting self-revelations can hardly be any other than that expressed in the old familiar Bible language, "Unstable as water, thou shalt "not excel." The key to much which might otherwise be unintelligible in such a life as that of Mark Pattison is to be found in his morbid self-consciousness. He always fancied that everybody was thinking of him, and forming an opinion of him. We can hardly call this vanity, for as often as not he was convinced that the opinion was unfavourable. The shyness and *gaucherie* of his early life are depicted in a most amusing manner, and the account of his first wine-party is very characteristic:—

> The acquaintances I made in my freshman's term—acquaintances due to accident, not choice—early disappeared from the scene. I never can forget my first wine-party. A freshman was not expected to give parties; he was entertained. But when I returned to college after the Long of 1832 I had to make a beginning. I was well supplied by my father with £20 worth of Smurthwaite's port and sherry—other wines were not in fashion—and I am sure that my port and sherry were as good as any in the college, though I should not have known it if they had not been. I had not been brought up upon wine: and my father had great difficulty in coaxing me downstairs to help him and a neighbour with a bottle of port. However, it belonged to the dignity of a commoner of Oriel to invite his friends to drink wine with him. I accordingly asked some of those who had asked me in the summer. I made as good a selection as I could, with a view to the suitability of the guests to each other. A handsome dessert was ordered from Sadler's; the port and sherry decanted. The guests were formally received by me in a cold sweat, so nervous that the few ideas I had fled, and left my brain a blank. I was at all times deficient in that mental activity and quickness of social sympathy to which James Burn, the beggar-boy, in his curious *Autobiography*, ascribes his success in life, in spite of grave defects in regard of the solid parts of character. Oh, the icy coldness, the dreary Egyptian blankness of that "wine"; the guests slipped away one by one under pretext of engagements, and I was left alone with an almost untouched dessert, to be carried off as perquisite by the college scout. It was long before I summoned courage to give a repetition of the entertainment. I thought I was ostracised, black-balled, expelled from society; I reflected hopelessly on the causes of the break-down, ascribing it to every cause except the simple one—clownishness and want of the *usage du monde*.

Mark Pattison had from his cradle been destined to go to Oxford and become the Fellow of a college. His father, who seems from the glimpses given of him in the earlier chapters, to have been of a higher type of character than his son was prepared to admit, had set his heart upon a Fellowship at Oriel, and this was the ideal prize never reached by the young undergraduate. Of his disappointment in this as in other respects the autobiographer speaks freely, but by no means dispassionately. His fierce onslaught on Sir Travers Twiss, to whom he attributed, somewhat unreasonably, his rejection at University, has been sufficiently dealt with by that distinguished lawyer in a letter to the *Times*, which places the facts in their true light, and suggests that it can only be ignorance as to what had occurred at the previous election of Dr. Claughton that could have induced the autobiographer to fancy that he was the victim of a special conspiracy directed against himself, in the setting aside in favour of Arthur Stanley of the provisions of the statutes. Indeed, while there is very much of interest and amusement to be derived from the present volume of *Memoirs*, we should be sorry to pin our faith on their accuracy. The strong passions and violent prejudices of the writer have undoubtedly coloured his pictures. Especially is this the case with regard to the Oxford Movement, of which he writes with all the maliguity and bitterness which are usually to be found in the utterances of a deserter anxious to excuse his desertion to himself as well as to his hearers. We need hardly refer to the most conspicuous instance of this malignity, to which Dr. Liddon has already called attention. A man who could believe, or profess to believe, that Dr. Pusey communicated to a third person a fact revealed to him under the seal of confession, can hardly be trusted as an authority on other subjects on which it is less easy to bring his statements to the test of probability. This should be borne in mind by those who read the very lengthy and somewhat wearisome complaint which the autobiographer formulates about his non-election to the office of Rector of Lincoln on Dr. Radford's death. There is certainly very little of philosophic stoicism in the wordy narrative of his disappointment, and there was far more to be said on behalf of the course of action adopted by the non-resident Fellow of Lincoln, on whom he animadverts so severely, than could be gathered from the autobiographer's own narrative. It is certainly an abuse of language to say that the Fellow in question, "to gratify his own "vanity, had burnt down the Temple of Ephesus." The only result of his preference for somebody else for Rector over Mark Pattison—which need not of necessity be attributed to vanity—was to postpone for a few years the accession of the latter to the coveted post. The blow thus inflicted on his nascent ambition was doubtless a severe one, but hardly so ruinous to the prosperity of Lincoln itself as he fondly imagined it to be. At the same time the bitterness and persistency with which Pattison dwells upon this episode are not unimportant elements in the portrait of himself which he has here given, and serve to show how his dominant feeling was in reality the pride which apes humility. We can well fancy how to such a man the criticism with which his contribution to the volume of *Essays and Reviews* was received appeared to be a mere "chorus of blatant and "ignorant howling;" but it is a matter of satisfaction that this chorus should have led him to resolve to "wash his hands of theology and even of Church "history," and betake himself to those other branches of study for which he was better fitted, and especially that of the progress of classical learning from the time of the Renaissance, to which his monograph on Casaubon is so valuable a contribution.

The book itself is a far more interesting one than the reader will have been led to believe from this sketch of it. We should not of course recommend it to be studied by itself by any one who desired to form a correct view of the stirring events as the University during the half-century of Pattison's life there. But as an *advocatus diaboli* the late Rector of Lincoln is well entitled to a hearing. His history is that of his mental development, or rather, as we should say, of his spiritual decadence. He looks back to the brightest and the highest aspirations of his earlier days as a mere abeyance of his reason, a dead-alivedness, so to speak, in the grip of fanaticism, and a servile surrender of his intellect to the evil influence of sacerdotalism. The very bitterness of his tone as he recalls those higher aspirations affords a measure of his loss. Nor does he invest the cold husks of Rationalism, for which he had exchanged his spiritual food, with any of that spurious charm which other more imaginative and less self-dissecting members of his school have done. We must quote part of the remarkable though painful passage in which he looks back on the course of self-formation which changed the shy country-boy of eighteen, so "unformed and "characterless," into the University reformer too profoundly learned to believe in anything.

> This is nearly my mental experience; my first consciousness is that of stupidity. A very feeble germ of intellect was struggling with a crushing mass of facts, ideas which it could not master, and with the tyrannical force of more powerful intelligence in the persons around me. Instead of starting, as I saw other young men do, with a buoyant sense of mental vigour and delight in the masterful exercise of the intellectual weapons, I was wearily nursing a feeble spark of mind, painfully conscious of its inability to cope with its environment. At twenty-one I seemed ten years in the rear of my contemporaries.
>
> Slowly, and not without laborious effort, I began to emerge, to conquer, as it were, in the realm of ideas It was all growth, development, and I have never ceased to grow, to develop, to discover, up to the very last. While my contemporaries, who started so far ahead of me, fixed their mental horizon before they were thirty-five, mine has been ever enlarging and expanding. I experienced what Marcus Aurelius reckoned among the favours of the gods, *μὴ πρὸ ὥρας ἀνδρωθῆναι, ἀλλ' ὅτι καὶ ἐπιλαβεῖν τοῦ χρόνου* (i. 17), and the growth of anything that could be called mind in me was equally backward. But slow as the steps were, they have been all forward. I seemed to my friends to have changed, to have gone over from High Anglicanism to Latitudinarianism, or Rationalism, or Unbelief, or whatever the term may be. This is not so; what took place with me was simple expansion of knowledge and ideas. To my home Puritan religion, almost narrowed to two points—fear of God's wrath and faith in the doctrine of the atonement—the idea of the Church was a widening of the horizon which stirred up the spirit and filled it with enthusiasm. The notion of the Church soon expanded itself beyond the limits of the Anglican communion and became the wider idea of the Catholic Church. Then Anglicanism fell off from me, like an old garment, as Puritanism had done before.
>
> Now the idea of the Catholic Church is only a mode of conceiving the dealings of Divine Providence with the whole race of mankind. Reflection on the history and condition of humanity, taken as a whole, gradually convinced me that this theory of the relation of all living beings to the Supreme Being was too narrow and inadequate. It makes an equal Providence, the Father of all, care only for a mere handful of the species, leaving the rest (such is the theory) to the chances of eternal misery. If God interferes at all to procure the happiness of mankind it must be on a far more comprehensive scale than by providing for them a Church of which far the majority of them will never hear. It was on this line of thought, the details of which I need not pursue, that I passed out of the Catholic phase, but slowly, and in many years, to that highest development when all religions appear in their historical light, as efforts of the human spirit to come to an understanding with that Unseen Power whose pressure it feels, but whose motives are a riddle. Thus Catholicism dropped off me as

* *Memoirs.* By Mark Pattison, late Rector of Lincoln.—London: Macmillan and Co., 1885.

another husk which I had outgrown. There was no conversion or change of view; I could no more have helped what took place within me than I could have helped becoming ten years older.

This is the outline of the story which is told at length in the *Memoirs*. The struggle between Religion and Rationalism is painted in them from the side of the Rationalist, and it is with supercilious contempt that the writer surveys the camp which he has quitted. Such phrases as "the "canker of ecclesiasticism," "steeped in parochial-"ism" (applied to Newman, Hurrell Froude, and Robert Wilberforce), and the "clerical virus" are sufficient indications of that spirit; and it is doubtless his abhorrence of that canker and that virus which lead him to pass so disparaging a judgment on his well-known sister. He speaks of Sister Dora as "having the family habit of embroidering and glorifying." She, according to her brother, "spent a faculty of invention, "which would have placed her in the first rank "as a novelist, in embellishing the everyday "occurrences of her own life." It is not a little characteristic of the man and of the benumbing effect upon him of his Rationalism that he has not a word of sympathy or admiration to spare for all her self-sacrifice. Indeed, the only occasion on which he is roused to anything like enthusiasm for spiritual gifts is when he, with unwonted generosity, records the current opinion in reference to the present Dean of St Paul's, who defeated him in "the supreme "ordeal of the Oriel Fellowship" in 1838, that "there was such a moral beauty about Church "that they could not help taking him." The disappointment of his own ambition in that respect was the greater because it had been, as we have before said, the object of his boyish ambition, and the old Oriel principle of electing for promise rather than performance gave him a better prospect of success there than in other colleges, where his comparatively low degree would have stood in his way.

We have not space to quote many curious passages which we had marked for extract relating to Pattison's studies, to his views of a tutor's duty, and to his intercourse with Newman. Though he had professedly enrolled himself under the banner of the latter, there was a certain amount of concealed antagonism between them. Pattison himself suggests that Newman may have detected the undeveloped Rationalism in him, and admits that he was neither so close to Newman personally as to miss him as a friend, nor had Newman's perversion, so long looked for and therefore mentally discounted, at all fallen upon him like a blow. The result of that perversion, however, on the history of the University is thus explicitly stated in a passage which, as an estimate of Liberal Oxford formed by one of its leaders, must be our last extract from this remarkable book:—

Hence the flood of reform, which broke over Oxford in the next few years following 1845, which did not spend itself till it had produced two Government commissions, until we had ourselves enlarged and remodelled all our institutions. In these years every Oxford man was a Liberal, even those whom nature had palpably destined for obstructives. There still survive many of this generation, who, having been caught up by the spirit of their day, and having then committed themselves to the Liberal colours too definitely to withdraw, are uncomfortable in their position, and present the laughable spectacle of remaining Liberal in spite of nature and constitution.

In any case a Liberal reaction must have come. But had it come by the ordinary slow steps it would not have done its work so thoroughly as it did. The clerical virus would have lingered in the system, and interfered with the complete recovery of the patient. Purged off and got rid of as it was, all at once the new generation had a clear field, entered, as it were, upon a new phase of life. It were no wonder if, in the first rush of intellectual freedom, we were carried beyond all bounds, sought to change everything, questioned everything, and were impatient to throw the whole cargo of tradition overboard. It is not to be denied that the reforming movement was pushed into extravagance in more than one direction. In the much-needed reform of our studies the love of examination has been carried to a mischievous extreme, from which we are now suffering. The sudden withdrawal of all reverence for the past has generated a type of intellect which is not only offensive to taste but is unsound as training. The young Oxford, which our present system tends to turn out, is a mental form which cannot be regarded with complacency by any one who judges an education, not by its programme, but by its *élèves*. Our young men are not trained; they are only filled with propositions, of which they have never learned the inductive basis. From showy lectures, from manuals, from attractive periodicals, the youth is put in possession of ready-made opinions on every conceivable subject; a crude mass of matter, which he is taught to regard as real knowledge. Swollen with this puffy and unwholesome diet, he goes forth into the world regarding himself, like the infant in the nursery, as the centre of all things, the measure of the universe. He thinks he can evince his superiority by freely distributing sneers and scoffs upon all that does not agree with the set of opinions which he happens to have adopted from imitation, from fashion, or from chance. Having no root in itself, such a type of character is liable to become an easy prey to any popular charlatanism or current fanaticism.

MR. HARE ON RUSSIA.*

Mr. Augustus Hare has, as most of our readers are probably aware, a remarkable talent for the compilation of guidebooks of a special type which he has made his own. We use the word compilation advisedly, as he shows even to more advantage in judicious borrowing than in original composition. His own style is, truth to tell, somewhat effeminate, not to say finicking; but he has wonderful skill and judgment in selecting illustrative passages from the writings of others, and bringing within a reasonable and a readable compass information scattered through many not always readable volumes. The latest addition to his numerous works, *Studies in Russia*, admirably illustrates his characteristic merits. He has not, indeed, found in it the same opportunity of expatiating on Art as is presented in his former books, for the Art of Russia is very different from that with which he has made us familiar in so many interesting rambles through Italian cities. The conventional types beyond which the Russian artist is unable to advance do not offer the same scope for criticism and for description, so that in his present volume he is more than ever dependent on the writings of others, and does not supplement them so much as usual with his own observations. The result is, truth to tell, a diminution in gush, and Mr. Hare's favourite epithet of "charming" does not reappear so often as in his earlier works. Indeed, it is not an epithet which is very appropriate to Russia, and the interest which is aroused by a visit to that country is of a very different character from the interest which is aroused by the fair historic land of Italy, with which he has been more accustomed to deal.

But against this we must set the unquestionable advantage that he has in his present volume to deal with less trodden ground. Books on Italy may be reckoned by the hundred, while books on Russia may be almost counted on our fingers. Of those which have appeared he has made good use, and his selections, admirably chosen, range over the whole field of the literature of Russian travel. The visits of the various ambassadors, commencing with the sixteenth century, of the various merchants and travellers for pleasure, whether English, French, German, or Italian, who, from the days of Anthonie Jenkinson to those of Wallace, have placed on record their Russian experiences, have been judiciously utilised, and we cannot speak too highly of the interest with which Mr. Hare has succeeded in investing his compilations. *Studies in Russia* is perhaps a somewhat ambitious title to have chosen, and suggests the idea of a more original work, involving more thought and less research than that now before us. Having regard to the difficulties of locomotion, the author could hardly have used his accustomed formula of Walks, and there are not quite enough "Cities" for such a title to have been chosen; but "Sketches," which he has used in his little volume about Scandinavia, would have been more appropriate. Still, as the rose by any other name would smell as sweet, we may welcome Mr. Hare's *Studies in Russia* as a most useful and readable addition to guidebook literature. The author does not profess to have any special knowledge of his subject, and neither his studies, properly so-called, or his one summer's residence in the country, justify his publishing such a book. But there is more than a sufficient justification in the successful manner in which he has carried out his self-imposed task, and he has certainly supplied an acknowledged want of all travellers in Russia. No one should think of visiting that remarkable Empire without finding room in his luggage, however limited, for Mr. Hare's volume, which stands out from among the meagre handbook literature of that country, and supplies a mine of curious and useful information for which we should look in vain in that literature. He had himself felt the want of such a volume, and future travellers will feel grateful to him for adding so much to the profit and the enjoyment of their visits to Holy Russia. It is, of course, impossible on such a visit to take with one all the books which the traveller would wish to consult, whether as to the aspect of the country, the manner and customs of the inhabitants, or the historical associations which gather round the various buildings, especially round the churches, which play so prominent a part in Russian history. Yet for lack of the information to be supplied in such books much of the interest and attraction of the journey is lost, and Mr. Hare deserves well at the hands of all future travellers in Russia for having supplied them with so admirable a *résumé* and boiling-down of those books. Nor is his volume without interest for stay-at-home folks, for, to borrow Mr. Hare's own favourite adjective, it is a really "charming" book, deriving no little additional charm from the graceful illustrations which have been so admirably reproduced from his sketches by Mr. Salmon. Those acquainted with his previous works know the happy little vignettes with which in but a few strokes he hits off the character of the various building, which he sketches, and the illustrations to *Studies in Russia*, taken often under circumstances of much difficulty and with divers threats of imprisonment from ignorant officials and unlettered sentinels, are not inferior to any of his predecessors.

The historical incidents here brought together throw a lurid light on the story of the Holy Russian Empire, and it is difficult to reconcile the devotion of the Muscovites to their Czar with this long record of murder and sudden death, of usurpation and of treachery. Hardly one of the famous churches is without the tomb of some Imperial victim, hardly one of the famous palaces has not been the scene of some deed of cruelty and treachery, and more than once or twice in this rough Northern story the path of murder was the way to glory. No annals of any reigning House in Europe are written in such characters of blood, and the more tragic incidents in those annals are brought out with much picturesque effect by Mr. Hare. His description of St. Petersburg, of Moscow, of Novgorod the Great and of Kieff, are the main features of the book, regarded as an original work and not as a happy compilation. That of Moscow is specially striking, and the description of the Kremlin may be referred to as a very favourable specimen of Mr. Hare's artistic treatment of his subject. But it is not possible to open the book at any page without finding something in it, either original or compiled, which is well worth reading. To give a list of the authorities which he has consulted would be to mention almost every writer worth mentioning who has treated of Russia. As a rule his selections from this large mass of literature are eminently judicious, but it was hardly necessary to quote even from Dean Stanley the same passage twice over, as he has done at pages 235 and 356. Nor while we are fault-finding should we omit to observe that Mr. Hare is so deeply steeped in the literature, the art, and the mode of feeling of the Western Church, that he hardly does sufficient justice to the Eastern Church. He quotes, indeed, from Mr. Palmer and from Mr. King, but with a certain half-heartedness which detracts from the merit of his book as a faithful portraiture of Church and State in Russia, for a portraiture to be faithful requires a degree of sympathy in the painter which was abundantly present in all Mr. Hare's Italian books, but is conspicuous by its absence in his *Studies in Russia*.

* *Studies in Russia*. By Augustus J. C. Hare.—London: Smith, Elder, and Co., 1885.

THE MARITIME ALPS.*

Every artist is alive to the necessity of having a motive for his picture, and the first point we look for in a new work is the motive which inspired it. In *The Maritime Alps and their Seaboard* it is not far to seek, for we find it on p. 11 of the Introduction:—

For some invalids on this coast the present must perforce be colourless: days of tedium succeeding to nights of pain. Perhaps these pages may please them—nay, people the sickroom with brave men and fair women, or perfume it with the breath of the hill-flowers.

Such a motive as this can hardly fail to command for the book the attention of the reading world at large; for, alas! the area of invalid life is not confined to the coast of the maritime Alps or any other seacoast, and the attention once arrested the pen of *Vera* may safely be trusted to fix it. No one is more capable of unrolling that ample page which is rich with the spoils of time, and we need not fear to trace it from the very beginning under her skilful guidance. She invests with dramatic interest the classical tale of Glyptis and the foundation of Marseilles, B.C. 599. From long-forgotten monastic records she wipes the dust of centuries, and bids them tell the earliest annals of the four Sees which divide the coast—Nice, Antibes, Vence, and Fréjus—how Vence was first evangelised by a colony of saints. "And what "saints! Mary and Martha, and their handmaid "Marcella; while following them came Victa, the "man who was born blind," and Maximian, and "Lazarus, wakened from his four days' sleep, "enduring life again, so as he might present the "truth of immortality to the heathen, weighted "with such a testimony to the life everlasting as "never earthly preacher has had at his command" (p. 102).

Then we read of the important influence of French monasticism upon the early centuries, when St. Honoratus founded his monastery on the Lérins which was afterwards to send forth a missionary like St. Patrick, a theologian like St. Vincent, and a Bishop like St. Lupus, who had the courage to stand alone at the Gate of Troyes in the path of Attila backed by his fiery Huns.

By contrast with the sombre tones of monasticism stand out the bright pictures of the Chivalry of the middle ages, when good King Réné kept his "Red Book of Nobility" and Petrarch's fair Queen Joanna of Naples smiled till her smile "reminds us of the sunshine of a fine day," and is only lost in the dark shadow cast by the gloom thrown by the story of the Templar upon the next chapter. A new conjecture removes the famous Mask, not of Iron, but of silk, from the long-dead features of the melancholy prisoner of St. Marguerite, and suggests a very probable solution of his mysterious identity. Passing over some decades we learn how the cannon of the Revolution devastated Nice, and the Terror is proclaimed. As the smoke clears off, the solitary figure of Napoleon appears, having just landed from Elba, seated on the beach in the grey dawn of the morning, lost in moody thought before riding off to Paris to play his last desperate card. After such skilful pilotage down the stream of time who would be so churlish as to grudge the writer the description of those last historical events in Nice of which she was an eye-witness: the death of the Heir of All the Russias, already so pathetically painted in the pages of *Vera*, that the late Prince Leopold, who, on his last visit to Cannes, borrowed a copy of the book to read over again the account of the Tzarevitch's death? A few days later, and it falls to the same pen to tell the same sad story over again; but—

To-day, an English Prince was lying in the hearse, the muffled drums beat, the cannon of St. Marguerite boomed across the waters, and the rose-hedges seemed to open to let him pass.

Well acquainted with the Italian proverb "L'alto "non temo, l'unite non sdegno," no details of agricultural and industrial activity are beneath the notice of the author, whose flowers might fill the fair field of Proserpine till they are gathered every day and sacrificed to gloomy "Dis" in the market of trade.

Except for the very ignorant, and in that case also the captious critic—for the two are seldom separated—such "handling," if we may still borrow a metaphor from art, lifts *The Maritime Alps and their Seaboard* far above the level of the ordinary guide-book—unless, indeed, by that term is meant a guide to the better knowledge of the past history and to the better appreciation of the beauties of so fair a scene. In the description of these last, the pen finds a rival in the pencil, for the engravings which are interspersed through the history of two thousand years steal with inimitable delicacy, each in its turn, "their glance from "Time."

* *The Maritime Alps and their Seaboard*. By the Author of *Vera*, *Blue Roses*, &c.—London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1885.

THE COURT OF VERSAILLES TWO CENTURIES AGO.*

There seems to be no end of memoirs on the French seventeenth century. La Rochefoucauld, De Retz, Madame de Sévigné, Bussy Rabuin, Saint-Simon, and Dangeau have often been reprinted, and are still eagerly read by those who would know something about Louis XIV., his Court and his policy. It is only the other day that the Société de l'Histoire de France gave us the first volume of Marshal Villars' autobiography, and now we have to announce the memoirs of the Marquis de Sourches, published by the enterprising firm of Messrs. Hachette. If what we are told is correct, this new journal threatens to rival, in point of dimensions, even Saint-Simon's immortal memoirs; whether it can pretend to equal them in solid interest is more than we are able to decide at present. One thing is certain, namely, that its importance for the epoch which it covers (1681—1715), is beyond a doubt, for it has been consulted by the Duke de Noailles for his *Histoire de Madame de Maintenon*, and by M. Laures for his work on the Ecclesiastical Assembly of 1682. The original manuscript is in seventeen volumes. Vols. II. and III. had been lent before the Revolution of 1789 to President Rolland, who died on the guillotine; the third one was ultimately recovered and published separately in 1833 by M. Adelm Bernier (2 vols., 8vo); the second, comprising the years 1683—1684, appears to be lost. It is certainly astonishing that the memoirs of the Marquis de Sourches should have remained so long *inédits*. The writer, Louis François de Boucret, held the responsible position of *prévôt de l'hôtel* and *grand prévôt de France;* thus attached to the Royal household, he had excellent opportunities of both seeing what was going on daily at Versailles, Marly, or Saint Germains, and of hearing the gossip, whether serious or frivolous, indulged in by the courtiers who flocked there. Of these opportunities he made all the use he could, and thus enables the reader to correct many statements to be found in contemporary memoirs, and to supplement omissions purposely allowed by others. The great advantage which the position of the Marquis de Sourches procured for him amounted to this. He had no political bias whatever; he could safely affirm *Tros Rutulusve fuat, nullo discrimine habebo*, and he was never swayed by selfish or ungenerous motives. The worst result of this impartiality was that his style became dull and tedious; he is less dry than Dangeau, and he lacks the brilliant colouring of Saint-Simon, and the charm which pervades from end to end the correspondence of Madame de Sévigné.

The third volume of the memoirs in question takes us from January, 1689 to 1691; it is the last published, and, as we see by the date, it is of extreme interest to the English reader, because the Marquis was as much anxious to secure the most trustworthy news on foreign politics as to chronicle the incidents of life at Versailles, the levees and festivals, the creations of the Knights of the Holy Ghost, and the appointments to military or ecclesiastical dignities. The Revolution of 1688 and its results very naturally come in for a great share of notice, the Marquis de Sourches taking, as might be expected, the Jacobite side, and keeping a minute record of all the movements of the unfortunate James II. The account of the first interview between Louis XIV. and the dethroned King of England is extremely curious, and it should be read in connection with Macaulay's history and the other works which take the liberal side, and endorse the policy of William III. or the Prince of Orange, as our gossipy Marquis persistently calls him.

We remarked just now on the singularity of the fact that the memoirs under notice should not have seen the light long before this; let us add that they could not possibly have appeared during either the reign of Louis XIV. or even the regency of the Duke d'Orléans. The reason will be obvious to any one who reads carefully the three volumes now before the public, as M. de Cosnac, the present editor, aptly remarks (Vol. I., Introduction, p. xxv.), every one humbled his thoughts as well as his person in the splendid galleries of Versailles; and the dry, the lifeless Dangeau was the only man who could venture to write for his contemporaries the history of France under the rule of the Grand Monarque. Adulation of the grosser kind grew to be more than fashionable, it became absolutely required. We do not mean to say that the Marquis de Sourches was, like Saint-Simon, a systematic despiser of Louis XIV.; far from it; he admired him, but with certain reservations. He had discovered that even the sun has its spots, and whenever his conscience raised objections, he followed implicitly its dictates rather than the suggestions of vanity. He could not pride himself on having, like Dangeau, won the approbation of the King and his Ministers by communicating to them long extracts from his diary; he could not handle with equal success the pen and the incense-box; but he has earned the respect of posterity by the moderation of his criticisms, and the gentlemanly tone which characterises all his censures form the most pleasing contrast to the venomous spite of Saint-Simon. We may quote as a case in point the account of the Marquis de la Carte's marriage with the elder daughter of Marshal de La Ferté. Now Saint-Simon, for some reason or other, could not bear the Marshal, and on the occasion of the projected

* *Mémoires du Marquis de Sourches sur le Règne de Louis XIV.* Publiés par le Comte de Cosnac. Vols. I.—III., 8vo.—Paris: Hachette et Cie.

union he takes the opportunity of spreading the most calumnious reports on the bride and her sister. De Sourches also alludes to the marriage, but abstains carefully from saying the slightest thing which might compromise the character of any of the parties concerned; at the same time he tells us many interesting details of the Marquis de la Carte, who, notwithstanding much opposition, assumed the name of La Fertó; he describes the *fêtes* given on that occasion at the Palais Royal by Monsieur, brother of the King, and the concert to which they were treated by the band of the opera, under the direction of Français, who had succeeded the celebrated Lully as conductor.

The niceties of Court etiquette as related by our author are sometimes very amusing, and they frequently occurred at places and occasions when we should least have expected to find them. Thus Louis XIV. one day, when taking the Holy Communion, perceived that one of the ends of the cloth was held by the Duke de La Trómoille instead of the Duke de La Force, whose right it was to perform the ceremony as the senior duke present. The King was sorely distressed at this circumstance, and sent an apology to La Force, after the service was over.

To conclude, the memoirs of the Marquis de Sourches are a most important contribution to the history of France during the reign of Louis XIV., and we shall eagerly look forward to the publication of the remaining volume.

THE BOOKS OF JOB AND HOSEA.*

The preliminary declaration which Dr. Perowne prefixes to each volume of the *Cambridge Bible for Schools*, to the effect that as general editor of the series he does not hold himself responsible for any of his coadjutors' opinions on points of doctrine, has always struck us as, to say the least, somewhat ominous. Does the Dean intend us to understand that he lends the weight of his name and the sanction of his authority to a commentary on Holy Scripture, and recommends it, too, for the use of schools, either without being sure, or else feeling indifferent, whether the teaching it contains is true or false, even on what he admits to be "questions of the deepest theological import"? Surely an announcement of this kind is at least calculated to raise an uncomfortable suspicion that the writer who makes it is conscious of some special reason for determining to be "on the safe "side."

1. One of the volumes before us contains the *Book of Job*, with an Introduction and Notes from the pen of Dr. A. B. Davidson. Were the merits of Dr. Davidson's work to be judged solely by his great learning, or by the boldness and ingenuity of the speculations—whether original or borrowed from German sources—with which his exegesis abounds, it would doubtless take a high place among expositions of the Sacred Book with which it deals. Those, however, who, like ourselves, believe that all Holy Scripture is to be accepted as the Divine Word to man, and as "caused" by God "to be "written for our learning," cannot deem Dr. Davidson's treatment of the Book of Job as in the least degree satisfactory. It is true that, although in rather a halting fashion, he rejects many of the crude conjectures and mutually destructive theories of the German school of negative criticism. But we have not, met, from beginning to end of Dr. Davidson's commentary, with a single expression that would lead the reader to suppose that, in his view, the Book of Job differs from any ordinary human composition. To Dr. Davidson the Book seems to be not a "drama," indeed, because forsooth "any idea of representing his "work on a stage never crossed the author's "mind" (p. xxi.), but simply "a dramatic poem" written with a didactic object, "to influence the "thought and the conduct of his generation." As a composition it is "finished and well-rounded," and the writer probably "had a clear idea before "his mind" (p. xxiii.). He is not "merely a poet;" he is also "a teacher." But whether he is a Divinely inspired teacher—in other words, whether it is God's purpose to teach us through him—Dr. Davidson does not say.

On the question whether the Book of Job is historical or not, the present editor, following Luther, whose "free handling" of Holy Scripture he seems to admire, unhesitatingly rejects the ancient and nearly universal belief of both Jewish and Christian writers that it is strictly historical; though he is willing to believe that the real name of "the hero of the piece" has been preserved to us, coupled probably with just an outline of the tradition of Job's great prosperity, his unparalleled afflictions, and possibly his restoration. "A vague "report" may also, he thinks, have "floated down" to the effect that the wise men of his country had discussed Job's afflictions.

Now, we are of course not forgetful of the fact that in some cases it has suited the Divine purpose to teach men moral truth by means of a narrative not strictly historical. But the special objection to the parabolic theory of the Book of Job is that the words attributed in the Book to God Himself would in this case be really fictitious. To us it is simply inconceivable that a sacred writer should permit himself such a licence. On this point, the strictly historical character of the Book, it is surprising that throughout Dr. Davidson's Introduction, extending to nearly seventy pages, it never seems to have occurred to him to consider the strongest of all internal arguments against his dramatic fiction theory—we mean the extraordinary fidelity of the numerous allusions made to local manners and customs, both social and domestic, which are known from other sources to have been characteristic of the patriarchal age; while, on the other hand, there is an equally remarkable absence of any reference to the history and institutions of Israel at a later date. This omission on Dr. Davidson's part is a grave one, and is not compensated for by the wilderness of barren conjecture, and unprofitable, however ingenious, guesswork, which occupies so large a part of this volume—a veritable "darkening of counsel" by mere words.

One other important objection exists to the theory of a dramatic fiction, which is that it begets some grave difficulties in connection with the speeches of Elihu. All scholars are agreed that they present certain contrasts in style to the rest of the Book, the principal of which is that they exhibit frequent Aramaisms. The upholders of the fictitious character of the Book can only explain so serious a departure from its general style by attributing the speeches of Elihu to a later hand. They plausibly enough maintain that the "dramatist" who composed the main portions of Job could hardly have made Elihu speak a more Aramaic dialect than the others. On the other hand, the explanation they offer of a late interpolation of Elihu's speeches presents a fresh difficulty, namely this—that the author of Elihu's speeches would necessarily be acquainted with the whole contents of the original Book of Job. This being so, it is unlikely that he would have attributed to Elihu a line of reasoning which presupposes him to have been ignorant of the hidden causes of Job's affliction, described in the opening chapters.

Is it not evident that this dilemma has its origin in the unwarrantable theory of a dramatic fiction? Once allow that the Book of Job is strict and literal history, and these obstacles vanish at once. It is then seen on the one hand that Elihu's speeches are reported *verbatim* in the Aramaic dialect which he actually used, and on the other that he is represented as employing arguments which take no account of Satan's action against Job simply because he really was ignorant of it.

One other point that demands notice is the editor's treatment of what he calls (p. xxxi.) "the doctrine of the Satan," who is represented here, he asserts, as no mere "evil spirit," the real enemy of God though His unwilling subject. "There is no antagonism between God and the "Satan." These are notions which, Dr. Davidson informs us, belong to a more advanced period. The idea that Satan's attack is primarily aimed at the honour of God is dismissed with the remark that it is altogether at variance with Old Testament conceptions. Satan, Dr. Davidson insists, is here the minister of God, a mere instrument in the economy of God's Providence. So in the Commentary (p. 7), we are assured that the Satan is not represented in Job as a fallen or evil spirit, though it is admitted that "he shows "an assiduity slightly too keen in the exercise of "his somewhat invidious function," and "rather "usurps the initiative."

Now, how it can possibly be maintained that no antagonism is here indicated as existing between God and Satan, in view of the words (ii. 3), "Thou didst move Me against him without a "cause"; or that the conception of Satan's enmity to God belongs to a later period, in view of the account of the Fall in the Book of Genesis—it entirely passes our powers to explain. This picture of the Accuser "going to and fro in the "earth" recalls not only "the Accuser" of the Apocalypse, but St. Peter's description of him (1 Pet. v. 8) as "going about seeking whom he may devour." That the Satan of Job acts only by the Divine permission, and that he is by nature an angel, are two facts quite consistent with his malignity.

2. The second of the two volumes is devoted to the *Book of Hosea*, for the Introduction and Notes to which Dr. T. K. Cheyne is responsible. The name of the editor is of itself a guarantee of sound scholarship and keen critical acumen. Not only is no living Hebraist better entitled to be heard on any question of linguistic knowledge, but Dr. Cheyne always brings to bear on the elucidation of the Sacred Text a depth of insight and a soberness of judgment which will be recognised even by those who differ most widely from his conclusions.

If, indeed, we could view the Book of Hosea as a merely human composition, we should have no hesitation in cordially recommending the present Commentary. Unhappily, Dr. Cheyne's exegesis is marked by what we cannot but deem a fatal flaw: we mean a failure to accord adequate recognition to that Divine authorship of the Books of Holy Scripture by the side of which the human element pales into utter insignificance.

This is illustrated over and over again throughout the book. On page 31, for example, Hosea is described as "inferior to" Jeremiah in "moral depth." In another place (p. 27), alluding to Hosea's prediction (iii. 5), "Afterward shall "the children of Israel return, and seek the "Lord their God, and David their king," Dr. Cheyne, rejecting the Messianic interpretation of the last phrase, attributes to the Prophet a belief in a political reunion of Israel and Judah, and proceeds to remark that "the event proved "that he was too hopeful;" adding that Hosea was "the most lyrical and least reflective of all "the prophets," and that he "frequently uses "predictions . . . . partly to relieve his "own overwrought feelings." Again (p. 10), after mentioning Hosea's estimate of the condition of Israel, Dr. Cheyne observes, "How different "is the superficial though not untruthful survey "of things and people given by a mere visitor "from Judah—the prophet Amos!" Once more, on p. 39 Dr. Cheyne writes, "To say that 'Out "'of Israel did I call my son' (Hos. xi. 1) is in a "strict sense of the word a prediction of the infant "Christ's return from Egypt, violates the canons "of exegesis." And this although St. Matthew expressly declares (ii. 15) that it *was* a prediction, and that the prediction was actually fulfilled by our Lord's return from Egypt. If the Evangelist's plain statement violates Dr. Cheyne's canons of exegesis, the sooner such canons are abandoned the better.

The fact is as we say: Dr. Cheyne does not realise the Divine authorship of these Sacred Books. If he did, he could have no difficulty in acknowledging that the passage in Hosea vi. 1, 2 refers to the Resurrection of Christ Our Lord, or in recognising Him as "David" in iii. 5. To fail to see Christ throughout the Old Testament is simply to miss the point everywhere.

And thus it is and ever must be with all those who set aside the Witness of the Church of God as the keeper and sole interpreter of the Divine Scriptures, in order to follow their own vain imaginings. They may be learned and able, sagacious and subtle; but they have not the key that alone can unlock the meaning of God's written Word.

* *The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges.* General Editor, J. J. S. Perowne, D.D., Dean of Peterborough. 1. *The Book of Job*, with Notes, Introduction, and Appendix. By A. B. Davidson, D.D., LL.D. 2. *The Book of Hosea*, with Notes and Introduction. By T. K. Cheyne, D.D.—Cambridge University Press, 1884.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

We know of few books that we can so entirely recommend as the Rev. Anthony Bathe's little volume, *What I Should Believe* (Rivingtons). It is exactly what it professes to be—a simple manual of self-instruction for Churchpeople. Mr. Bathe seems to have intended it primarily for the use of young men of the working-class, such as it has doubtless fallen to his lot to teach in his own parish. We have no doubt that it is well adapted for them; but we are quite sure that it is at least equally well suited to young men of the upper-classes. Indeed, it would be matter for sincere thankfulness if, for instance, the vast majority of Oxford and Cambridge undergraduates were as well instructed in the truths of the Christian Faith as they would be by studying this little book. Writing with an intimate knowledge of the present condition of one, at least, of the Universities, we have no hesitation in saying quite deliberately that an intelligent Sunday-school boy in a well-ordered parish knows far more about the doctrines of the Faith than the average undergraduate who has been brought up at any one of our chief public schools. Mr. Bathe's book has three conspicuous merits. In the first place, its teaching is perfectly definite and unfaltering. The author is evidently a trained theologian, possessing a firm and fearless grasp of the whole Catholic Faith. As a natural result, he addresses himself to others in no obscure or hesitating tones. Secondly, he shows that he is familiar with some of the special difficulties of the present day. His "Proofs of the Existence of God" furnish an instance of what we mean. And then, thirdly, Mr. Bathe has the capacity of conveying his meaning intelligibly. His style is the reverse of dull or heavy. The instructions are short, terse, and eminently lucid. We shall venture to offer just one suggestion, although with diffidence. It is that, in treating of the subject of the Atonement, it might have been well to point out the infinite heinousness of sin as offending the infinite majesty of God, and hence to prove the need of an infinite reparation, such as could only be made by One Who is Infinite—that is, by God Himself. We admit that this by no means explains the whole mystery of the Death of Christ, but it is a point which may, we think, be profitably insisted on, and is capable of being stated in a manner quite within the grasp of those for whom this little treatise is meant. We have only to express once more to Mr. Bathe our warm appreciation of a book which, in these days of slipshod theology, private judgment, and nebulous half-beliefs, is calculated to render an immense service to the cause of Christian Truth.

In view of the approaching commemoration of Primrose Day, Mr. Harding, the well-known stationer in Piccadilly, has issued two handsome cards, both of which are executed under the patronage of the Ruling Council of the Primrose League. One, designed by the Hon. Mrs. Armytage, represents a bust of Lord Beaconsfield, with a view of Hughenden; the other is prepared from a drawing of the banner of the Primrose League, designed by Mrs. Pierrepont Mundy and worked by the ladies of the Irish School of Art in Dublin. Copies of the former can be had, either plain or printed in gold and colours. Mr. Harding has also on sale, at 157, Piccadilly, the *Beaconsfield Calendar*, with a view of Hughenden Manor and Church, and a representation of Signor Raggi's fine statue of Lord Beaconsfield; the "Primrose "League Note-paper;" and other souvenirs of our departed Leader. Conservatives need not be urged to keep alive his memory or to enforce his teaching. The course of events at home and abroad is doing *that* effectually enough.

Mr. Seager has published a useful little book about *The Franchise Act*, 1884 (Frederick Warne and Co.), which gives the various provisions of that measure with all needful explanations in a very clear and explicit form. It will be found very useful by all those whose misfortune it is to have to study this Radical measure. At the same time, it might have been as well in a manual intended for general use to have abstained from talking about "a great act of political "justice," and glorifying the establishment of "the principle of pure Democracy broad based "upon the people's will."

All the well-known features which have in the past made Debrett's *House of Commons and Judicial Benches* a valuable work of reference are to be found in the issue for 1885, while several additional sections have been added. The new rules which now govern the admission of strangers to any of the galleries in either House are fully described, and there is also given a useful alphabetical list of the new constituencies proposed to be created under the new Redistribution Bill, together with a list of existing boroughs that are affected by the Bill.

The fact that Dr. Littledale's *Plain Reasons against Joining the Church of Rome* (S.P.C.K.) has reached its thirty-fifth thousand renders any special notice of its contents superfluous. Much of the reasoning may be cogent and conclusive enough; but we have no hesitation in saying that its methods are applicable to a great deal of Christian doctrine besides what is distinctively Roman. And we must plainly say that we cannot pretend to understand the logical position of a controversialist who, having himself edited a volume of "Devotions to the Saints," could pen the sections which treat of that subject in the present book. As to the charge of "suppressing "the Second Commandment," we are ashamed that any defender of the Anglican position should think it necessary to have recourse to so contemptible an artifice. The absence of a spirit of fair play is evident on nearly every page; and this is a shortcoming for which no amount of learning or of acute criticism can in the least degree compensate.

The *Highland Magazine*, the second number of which has just reached us, appears to be well worthy of extended support, containing as it does a variety of articles which have evidently been selected with the object of satisfying every section of the reading public. In "The True Reading of "Irish History," Mr. H. Macneill essays to point out the main facts in Irish ethnology and some of the characteristic events in Irish history; there is a paper on "Highland Education" and also one on "Dongola;" two short stories are given in Gaelic; and the contents also include a complete tale, "A Legend of the '45," and an instalment of a serial story; while in "Editor's Easy Chair" there are many notes on passing events which will prove of interest. The magazine is published in Oban by Duncan Cameron, and in London by G. Robertson and Co.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

NEW ACROSTIC RULES:

In future, instead of the Quarterly Prize, a Prize of One Guinea will be given every month for the successful solution of the Acrostics that appear in the *John Bull*.

The present monthly competition will include the Acrostics that are given on April 4, 11, 18, and 25.

At the end of the month, in case competitors tie, they will proceed to guess off the ties, being debarred from prize-winning in the fresh monthly competition so long as they are engaged in contesting the ties.

No competitor can gain more than two Monthly Prizes in the course of the year.

All solutions must be forwarded not later than the Monday week following the appearance of the Acrostic, addressed to the Acrostic Editor of the *John Bull*, 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, E.C., and signed by a pseudonym of not inordinate length.

Alternatives to the number of three are allowed.

All solutions received are acknowledged, whether correct or not.

ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 6.

(First Month, Tenth Year.)

1. B ucentau R
2. O dess A
3. A rcti C
4. T enebra E

Answers have been received from G.C.H., Cymro, Elion, Land o' Nod, K-tha, Sleepy, Kildale, Sarnia, Peewit, Todcat, The Owl, Etak, Persevere, Hampton Courtier, M.A.E.B., Two Countesses, Iris, Paddy, Beam, Conjecture, Pansy, Burleigh, Zyx, Pegasus, Felix, Sociable, S.O.F., Waddles, and Viz.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 2.

(Second Month, Tenth Year.)

Proem.

Empire and city that succeed for a space
The strength of the Frankish invader to face.

1.
Beneath his magic brush see landscape live,
To each new age its pristine charm to give!

2.
It springs eternal in the human breast;
Man never is but always to be blest.

3.
The Scotch therewith will describe a man,
But tell what it means few Southrons can.

4.
A quaint old-fashioned woman's name,
To which the stage has lent some fame.

5.
Its banks the youth of the great wizard know,
Who worlds exhausted and invented new.

Correspondence.

THE PRIVY COUNCIL FETISH.

To the Editor of the John Bull.

Sir,—The "Persecution Society" seem to think the peace of the Church is too profound, and are reopening the waters of strife in the Diocese of Liverpool. The threatened cleric (Rev. J. Bell Cox) reminds the Bishop of that See of his own words in Convocation, 1881, "that during the short time he had been a Bishop he had had some little trouble, but he had declined most distinctly to sanction any prosecution, for he felt that prosecution in the present state of things would do more harm than good." That state of things has been so far since modified as that the supreme tribunal of prosecution according to law stands officially condemned by the Report of the Ecclesiastical Courts Commission. Meanwhile its false history, false law, sophistical arguments, and mutually destructive rulings have been riddled through and through by criticism, till the whole tissue of shoddy is in rags and tatters.

Therefore we presume the Bishop has become a convert to the usefulness and efficiency of its proceedings, and instructs his man of law, Mr. Gamon, to bait Mr. Bell Cox. Now at length it seems the Bishop is inclining to haul down the Union Jack of peace and brotherhood and fly the Death's Head and Cross-bones of true Protestant intolerance.

I well remember at the Newcastle Church Congress a few words from his Lordship, rating and snubbing the clergy much as follows:—"You're capital fellows in the pulpit. Stick to that, and leave law to lawyers; swallow their *dicta* without reserve in their own sphere"—meaning the interpretation of the Church's formularies and the interpolation of their own glosses. In the pulpit the clergy are to follow, I presume, their conscientious interpretation of Scripture. But when the question comes, which settles that and all other such questions, *what* precisely may be lawfully taught—then put out the light which you hold in your hearts and follow the *ignis fatuus* of the law! Lawyers, in fact, are to judge and to teach the teachers by their serene and guileless wisdom what is to be taught, what not. They are supposed exempt from theological bias. Take, as a notable instance, the late Lord Westbury, who opened fire in the Colenso case (1865) with the following remarkable utterance:—"The Bishop of Natal and the Bishop of Capetown . . . have been *created* Bishops *by the Queen*, in the exercise of her authority as Sovereign of this realm and *Head* of the Established Church." The Queen is no more able to create a Bishop than to create a Priest, and the title "*Head* of, &c." once arrogantly assumed, has been long since expressly repudiated, and is generally known to be unwarrantable. Here are two falsehoods in one sentence from the then Chief of the Law. If these sprang not from theological bias, they must have arisen from deliberate perversion.

While I write, the diocese of Liverpool is announced as being enriched by another "persecution" squabble. The patron of St. Agnes' Church presented a cleric whose "practices" are offensive to the Bishop. The decision of Chief Baron Pollock in the recent Miles Platting case is held to have made resistance hopeless. Thus a Common Law Judge, sitting on matters about which he knows as little as he cares, tramples alike on the rights of patron and cleric, "*indifferently* ministering justice, to the punishment of—true religion and virtue."

I saw the Judicial Committee pickled in some racy sapphics in your columns lately. Its members stand pilloried in the Report above referred to, which practically endorses the complaint "that their decisions have been given by policy; that they have been rigid in the enforcement of a particular standard of ritual conformity, lax in reproving heresy, and opposed to clear principles of theological interpretation"—together with a good deal more of moral tar-and-feathers liberally bestowed on them by whoever indited that notable paragraph 1 on page 1. Yet, through the Report not having been acted upon, they are potent for mischief still, like wasps whose nest is smoked, but whose stings retain their venom.

If anyone wants a concise epitome of "the law" as traduced and depraved by its own experts, let him spend 4d. on a recent letter of the Rev. Croker Adams to Sir R. Cross.* There he will find a handy guidebook to the stumblings, fumblings, blunderings, flounderings, self-contradictions, and mutually destructive positions contained in the "judgments" of these legal luminaries. The mere mob of conflicting rulings all jostling one another in a heap like passengers in a cheap excursion omnibus upset, occupies two pages of close print, supported by over sixty references to about fifteen judgments. Mr. Croker Adams charitably supposes that these rulings, which give each other the lie direct, are attempts made by the Court (or Conclave—for it appears they don't judge, they only advise) to correct its own errors. If so, they would seem to have thrown up the job in despair, appalled at the portentous task, and out of breath with shouting, as it were, against themselves. Thereon follows a sequel of *two more* pages of similar declarations, refuted not by "My Lords" themselves, but by glaring facts and overwhelming authorities. No isolated specimens can convey an adequate idea of the monstrosities of these Ossa-upon-Pelion heaps of futility, so I forbear to quote, and only say, buy and read.

But since the late Chief Baron Kelly unbagged the cat of "policy" *versus* "law," and denounced the former as the source of Privy Council Justice, the downfall of the stupendous edifice of chicane is merely a question of time. The too candid Chief Baron was promptly snubbed, and a new Order in Council established a *clôture* for any who should divulge the *arcana* of augury. Can they—the surviving sages (or wags, shall we call them?) of the Ridsdale Judgment—ever meet now without a wink in one eye and a tongue in one cheek? Perhaps in some future *cause célèbre* he of Liverpool may be an Episcopal assessor; and who shall say what grand additions to the standards of the Faith may not accrue when he is? Our Privy Councillors (see Merriman *v.* Williams), not content with falsifying the old, must needs coin *new* standards and force the base currency on us as "legal tender." Thus these Phari-ees of the Council-chamber make the Word of God, as expounded by His Church, of none effect through their traditions; read their own decisions, bristling (as Mr. C. Adams has shown) with blunders like a porcupine with quills, into that Church's standards, pervert the text, insert the comment, and thus complete the chain of audacious forgery for the Bishop of Liverpool to bind his clergy in its iron links. If you want a job perpetrated which shall astound the moral sense by its astute unscrupulousness, empanel the highest legal luminaries of the realm. Take equal quantities of ermine, horsehair, and gold-lace, trim with a *soupçon* of lawn, just for an edging, and you have a mantle ready to cover any quantity of sins.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
VINDEX VERI.

THE POLICY AND WORK OF THE ENGLISH CHURCH UNION.

To the Editor of the John Bull.

Sir,—A letter you were so courteous as to publish from my pen on this subject, in your impression of May 17, 1884, caused dire offence—not because there were any forcible sentences or over-severe remarks in it, but because a mere statement of admitted facts became so utterly damaging—when the facts were duly marshalled and publicly known.

I received more than a dozen critical letters, mainly anonymous, full of indignant sentences, weak arguments, and strong language. I have just edified and amused myself by a reference to them. The writers were very uncomplimentary to myself. But that was of no matter. To abuse unpopular persons is always easier than to maintain unpopular principles.

I have little doubt that you, Sir, have long seen that the policy of the E.C.U. has turned out an utter and perfect failure. Knowing this—for I saw clearly enough what was coming when I retired from it fourteen years ago—I should be prepared to prove my assertion on any platform in the kingdom. The leaders of the E.C.U. have deliberately, purposely and successfully made that organisation a mere political society for supporting Mr. Gladstone, his Parliamentary allies, and his clerical toadies—the only work that it has done. And this has certainly been well done. The Universities Bill, the Canadian Reserves Bill, the Tests Abolition Bill, the Church Rates Bill, and the Oaths Bill were one and all quietly supported, corporate opposition thereto being ably manipulated and successfully stifled.

As for defending persons who think themselves "Catholics," it has done nothing of the sort. Mackonochie, Tooth, Dale, Enraght, Green, A. H. Ward, and De la Bere have all experienced the impotence of the E.C.U. wire-pullers, and have been all, one after the other, defeated and duped. In these several cases we have seen impotence *in excelsis*. The "six points" are as a consequence almost everywhere abandoned.

And now what says the Oxford University Branch of the E.C.U.? Here is its formal, humiliating, and contemptible resolution:—

That, while emphasising the relation in which the present Prayer-Book confessedly stands to the first Prayer-Book of Edward VI., this branch of the E.C.U. doubts whether the present is the best time to press for the restoration of the usages therein contained, though in themselves earnestly to be desired and heartily to be prayed for.

When this do-nothing, effeminate resolution, with its odious cant about prayer, was carried unanimously, "a vote of sympathy with Mr. Bell Cox, of Liverpool," was also passed by acclamation. Very cold comfort this for the poor, persecuted man, and very valuable! Much good may it do him! He, too, having been egged on to indulge in all kind of ritualistic demonstrations, is now likewise to be deserted like the rest of the dupes. Behold your gods, O country parsons! Mere wooden stocks or wind-bags. Yours obediently,

FREDERICK GEORGE LEE.

All Saints', Lambeth.

P.S.—Mr. Robert Owen, in a printed paper just issued, most pertinently asks: "Is the future of the Church of England to issue in a new form of chasuble Protestantism, active but unlearned, and obedient only to the shifting impulses of a sovereign Democracy?" I ask leave to echo this query.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNERAL AND MOURNING REFORM ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of the John Bull.

Sir,—Permit me to call the attention of your readers to the meeting to be held by the kind permission of the Lord Mayor of London in the Mansion House, London, on behalf of the Funeral and Mourning Reform Association, on April 17, at 3 p.m. The holding of conferences and meetings, the delivery of sermons and lectures, and the wide distribution of pamphlets, leaflets, &c., have been the chief means employed for making known the Society's aims. A still more extensive use of these means in the poorer districts of our large towns is now desirable. The assured annual income is less than £60. There are no paid officials, and no rents or other charges. Contributions, great or small, will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the hon. secs. at the office of the Society, 16, King-street, Cheapside, E.C., who will gladly give practical advice, and arrange for the delivery of sermons and for the holding of conferences and meetings.

I am, yours faithfully,
ARTHUR J. PUREY CUST,
Chairman of the Council.

Deanery, York, April 7.

Ecclesiastical.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. H. W. H. Bircham, to Perpetual Curacy of St. Peter's, Aldborough Hatch, Essex. Patron, the Crown.

Rev. J. L. Bowley, to be Chaplain of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

Rev. W. S. Calverley, Rector of Dearham, to Vicarage of Aspatria. Patron, the Bishop of Carlisle.

Rev. S. E. Davies, formerly Vicar of Shipton Bellinger, Wilts to Vicarage of Broadwindsor. Patron, the Bishop of Salisbury.

Rev. S. Hinde, retired Chaplain on the Bengal Establishment, to Rectory of South and West Hanningfield

Rev. H. F. Johnson, Rector of Chelmsford, to be Archdeacon of Essex.

Rev. Canon Knox-Little, Rector of St. Alban's, Cheetwood, to Vicarage of Hoar Cross, near Burton-on-Trent Patron the Hon. Mrs. Meynell Ingram.

Rev. J. C. Lintott, Vicar of St. Luke's, Camberwell, to Vicarage of St. Philip's, Battersea. Patron, the Bishop of Rochester.

Rev. R. A. Oram, late Chaplain of the Hockerill Training College, to Vicarage of Ramsey, near Harwich. Patron, the Lord Chancellor.

Rev. J. H. Pearson, Senior Curate of Warminster, to Vicarage of Imber. Patron, the Bishop of Salisbury.

Rev. C. Powell, Senior Curate of Farnham, to Rectory of Newick.

Rev. G. P. Quick (Oxford), Curate of Holy Trinity, Cork, to Rectory of St. Peter's, Cork. Patrons, the Board of Nomination.

Rev. W. S. Sanders, Rector of St. Nicholas, Guildford, be Surrogate for the Diocese of Winchester, County of Surrey Division.

Rev. T. J. Scott, late Consular Captain at Malaga, Rector of Marksbury, Somerset. Patron, Mr. F. W. Thorne Cosham.

Rev. W. H. Sutton, to Vicarage of Freeland, Oxon. Patrons, Mr. Robert Raikes and others as Trustees.

Rev. F. Walters, to Vicarage of Langford, Oxon. Patron, the Bishop of Oxford.

OBITUARY.

March 13, the Rev. Henry Macnamara, M.A., Incumbent of St. Paul's Church, Dundee, N.B., aged 65.

March 27, in London, the Rev. Charles Robinson Bird, late Rector of Castle Eden, and Rural Dean of South Easington, Durham, aged 65.

March 27, at the Vicarage, Raskelfe, the Rev. Thomas Hartley, M.A., for 40 years Vicar of the parish, aged 79.

March 28, at Monkstown, Dublin, the Rev. David La Touche Whitty.

March 29, at Garforth House, Upper Sydenham, the Rev. William Blackley, M.A., late Rector of Stanton-on-Hine-Heath, Salop, and Chaplain to the late Viscount Hill, aged 87.

March 29, at Ely, the Rev. John Sansom, B.A., Rector of Faldingworth and Buslingthorpe, Lincolnshire, aged 72.

March 30, at Rome, aged 66, the Rev. Hugh Andrew Johnstone Munro, Litt.D., D.C.L., LL.D., Senior Fellow of Trinity College, and formerly Professor of Latin in the University of Cambridge.

March 30, Charles Henry Burton, M.A., Rector of Huggate, Pocklington, aged 67.

April 1, at Hill End, Salwarpe, Worcestershire, the Rev. Henry Perceval, aged 85.

April 2, at the Old House, Betchworth, Surrey, the Rev. William Francis Gore, B.A., aged 65.

April 5, at Yately Vicarage, the Rev. Henry John Leconteur Sumner, Vicar of Yately, Hants, aged 39.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGIATE.

OXFORD.

The following degrees were conferred in a Congregation held on Wednesday morning, this being the first day of the Easter Term:—

M.A.—Rev. Samuel George Wood, Balliol; Arthur Bryant Row, Balliol; Rev. Alureldo Guy L'Estrange, Exeter; Rev. Samuel Howard Baker, New; Rev. Evelyn Keith Douglas, New; Hubert Alexander Vincent, Lincoln; Montague Sneade Faithfull Monier-Williams, Christ Church; Rev. Henry Irwin, Keble; Walter Kennedy M'Dougall, Oriel.

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

The Bishop of St. Asaph is so far recovered that he was able to hold a Confirmation at Denbigh on Easter Eve.

The Rev. H. Frank Johnson, rector of Chelmsford, has accepted the appointment of Archdeacon of Essex, rendered vacant by the death of the late Ven. J. G. Le M. Carey.

The installation of the Rev. Dr. Butler as Dean of Gloucester is arranged to take place on Saturday, May 23.

The choir at the Mission of the Holy Trinity, Stepney (curate-in-charge, the Rev. A. O. Jay), were surpliced for the first time on Easter Day.

The Bishop of Southwell has reopened the ancient church of Furningly after complete restoration, the expense of which was borne by three of the parishioners.

The Bishop of Dover's annual visitation for the eastern archdeaconry in the diocese of Canterbury will be held at the Cathedral on May 6 and 7. The Archdeacon of Maidstone will commence the visitation on April 20th, concluding on the 24th.

At St. Matthew's, Sheffield, the vestry meeting passed off quietly, the vicar (Rev. G. C. Ommanney) nominating Mr. H. Mushet as his representative, and the meeting, which was for the best part made up of working men, re-electing Mr. Edward Bindley.

The Bishop of London left Exeter on Tuesday morning for Fulham Palace. His farewell sermon in Exeter Cathedral on Easter Sunday was on the eternal nature of love and the indissoluble character of all holy and Christian friendships which were stamped with the Divine love.

The Bishop of London has arranged for holding a confirmation in the Church of St. Alban's, Holborn, on April 18, at 7.30 p.m.

The Bishop of Rochester, in an address to his candidates for Confirmation, says:—"Occasionally, and sometimes frequently in the poorer than the richer districts, I have regretted to observe a growing tendency to showy finery in the dress of the female candidates. Mock pearls in the humbler class, white satin shoes in the higher—which on a bleak March day make one tremble for the poor girl's health—should gently but firmly be eschewed. Nothing would distress me more than to have to send a candidate back for showy or tawdry apparel. But for example's sake it may be necessary for me to do it."

The new Church of St. Mary, Southampton, erected as a memorial of the late Bishop Wilberforce, which was opened in May last year, has just received the addition of a very handsome reredos, which was unveiled on Saturday evening at a special Easter dedication service, chiefly choral. The reredos, which is 21ft. 6in. long and 16ft. 6in. high, has been executed by Messrs. Earp, Son, and Hobbs, of London and Manchester, and has cost over £600. It comprises five groups of sculpture, executed in high relief, in pure white alabaster, the same material in red, green, and dove-colour being used for the architectural surroundings. There are three central arches, having crocketed gables, with an ornamental cross in the centre, and finials on the two sides, resting on carved capitals, supported by green and red marble columns, which cluster round enriched buttresses terminating with pinnacles. The central subject is the Ascension, the heads of beholding Disciples looking towards a figure some 4ft. in height, with which the other chief figures in the work correspond, the supporting groups right and left representing respectively the Agony in the Garden and Bearing the Cross. The two end divisions have a horizontal treatment of traceried panelling resting upon double arches, enclosing sculptures of the Annunciation and the Nativity. The architectural beauties of the interior of St. Mary's Church have an appropriate finish in this new reredos, which occupies the eastern wall space below the Bishop Wilberforce memorial window. The dedicatory service on Saturday evening was conducted by Canon Basil Wilberforce, rector of the parish.

The old chained Bible of Canterbury Cathedral, which has for so many years been carefully preserved in the Cathedral Library, is now undergoing renovation, Dean Payne Smith and the Bishop of Dover contemplating its replacement in its original position upon what is known as Cranmer's desk in the north-east aisle of the Cathedral. The book is one of large size and considerable weight, and would appear to have undergone very rough usage, probably at the time of the Rebellion. A careful examination shows that the cover must then have been torn off, the strength of at least three men having been, it is thought, necessary to have wrenched asunder the five thongs with which it was fastened. It is one of those known as the second edition of Cranmer's Bible, and contains two very fine engravings, one of the Earl of Leicester and the other of Lord Burleigh. The former portrait was very much obliterated, but the old paper and lines have been restored with great care and success. The clasps and chain fastening have also been torn from the volume.

On Tuesday morning at ten o'clock the Dean and Canons residentiary assembled in the Chapter House at Exeter, and the Prebendaries in the Canons' vestry, and on the latter arriving in the Chapter House the Chapter Clerk read the *congé d'élire* and the citation. At 10.30 the Dean, Canons, and Prebendaries proceeded to the choir, and the morning service proceeded as usual to the end of the First Lesson, after which the Dean, Canons, and Prebendaries returned to the Chapter-house, the great bell tolling, and the Chapter Clerk read the letter commendatory. The Chapter then appointed Mr. William John Battishill, notary public, to be their actuary, and appointed certain witnesses. The Dean then declared absentees contumacious, and read a monition and protestation declaring "all and singular excommunicated, suspended, and interdicted" who ought to have attended and had not, and that their absence would in no way invalidate the election. The Chapter then proceeded to the election, and having elected Dr. Bickersteth, the Dean of Gloucester, the Dean declared the result to the Chapter, who then returned to the choir, and the Dean from his own stall announced the result of the election to the congregation. The service continued, and after it was concluded the full Chapter returned to the Chapter-house, and decreed that the usual certificates of the election be sealed with the common seal of the Dean and Chapter, and also the usual proxy be appointed for the presentation of such certificates to the Queen, the Archbishop, and the Bishop-elect.

The contributions to the Southwell Bishopric Completion Fund, up to Saturday last, amounted to £3,648; so that only £5,852 remain now to be collected. It is hoped that this sum may be speedily subscribed. Amongst the recent contributors are the names of the Lord Chancellor, the Bishop of Truro, Dr. Liddon, Canon Pretyman, Mr. Eustace Smith, Mr. W. Rivington, and Mr. Robert Smith. The Bishop-Elect of Lincoln (Dr. King) has subscribed £200. The Bishop of Southwell will be glad if those who are kind enough to answer the appeal will communicate with Canon Ingram, 20, Finsbury-square, London.

The enthronisation of Dr. Temple as Bishop of London took place on Wednesday morning in St. Paul's Cathedral; the congregation witnessing the ceremony being rather small in number. The Bishop was met at the Chapter-house by the Dean, the residentiary Canons, the Prebendaries, and officials of the diocese. The mandate from the Primate having been read, the Dean administered the customary oath. A procession was then formed in the following order, and went from the Chapter-house to the great west door of the Cathedral:—The Apparitor of the Dean and Chapter, the Commissary of St. Paul's, the Registrar of the Dean and Chapter, the Prebendaries, the vergers, residentiaries, the Dean, the Bishop's Apparitor, the Bishop in his episcopal habit, the Chancellor, the Registrar of the diocese, the Bishops' Chaplains, and others in attendance. Preceded by the choir, the procession moved slowly to the chancel, singing the well-known hymn, "The Church's one foundation." Dean Church, upon the Bishop being seated in his throne at the end of the choir, installed his lordship in the following words:—"I, Richard William Church, Dean of this Cathedral church, do by the authority to me committed, induct, install, and enthrone you, the Right Reverend Father in God Frederick, by Divine permission Lord Bishop of London, into the Bishopric and episcopal dignity of London. The Lord preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth for evermore; and mayest thou remain in justice and sanctity, and adorn the place to you delegated by God. God is powerful, and may He increase in you His grace." The Bishop was then conducted to the episcopal stall in the centre of the choir, and the "Te Deum" and suffrages were sung and said by the choir and the Dean. The following special prayer was next offered:—"Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord, to Thy servant Frederick our Bishop, that by preaching, and doing those things which be godly, he may set forth the example of good works, and teach and strengthen the souls of the people committed to his governance, and that finally he may receive the everlasting recompense of the reward from Thee, the Most Merciful Pastor, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." Holy Communion was then celebrated; the Bishop officiating. At the conclusion of the service the procession returned to the Chapter-house in the reverse order to that in which it entered; the Bishop preceding the clergy. The Dean, Canons, Prebendaries, and other clergy and officials then, the Bishop having been seated, promised canonical obedience to him in these words:—"Right Reverend Father in God, I acknowledge all canonical obedience due to you as Bishop of London."

A series of lectures has recently been given at Keighley by the Rev. Dr. Hayman, rector of Aldingham, intended to meet the objections of unbelievers and the difficulties of honest inquirers. Addresses were delivered at the Temperance Hall on four successive week-day evenings, and on the Sunday the large room was twice packed, at three and half-past eight o'clock, quite full from end to end, many being compelled to stand. Great interest was manifested by the audience, and many intelligent questions were asked, free discussion being welcomed. Dr. Hayman also preached twice at the parish church on "Christ the turning-point of human history" and "Jesus and the Resurrection." On two days a short address was given during the dinner-hour in the yard-sheds to the workmen employed at two of the largest works in Keighley, those of Messrs. Hattersley and Sons and of Messrs. Prince Smith and Son. At one of these meetings probably 200, at the other about 400, men were present.

According to the Glasgow papers, the following clergy are to officiate "during the season," in a chapel connected with the Scottish Episcopal Seceders—or "Church of England in Scotland," as they style themselves—situate at Wemyss Bay, a Clyde watering-place, where there is already a proper licensed Scottish Episcopal Chapel, with resident chaplain. No doubt the Bishops of their respective dioceses will interfere with regard to such proposed schismatical acts:—The Rev. W. Richardson, vicar of Poulton-de-Fylde; the Rev. John Ebworth Matthews, vicar of Swanswick; the Rev. J. F. Gregg, Canon of St. Patrick's, Dublin, rector of Trinity Church, Limerick; the Venerable Archdeacon Edward William Whateley, rector of Littleton; and the Rev. Dr. Hannay, vicar of Belfast.

* *The Church and the Council.* Addressed to the Right Hon. Sir R. Cross, M.P., G.C.B., by the Rev. Croker Adams, M.A., &c.—London: Church Printing Company, 1885.

THE COURT.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice and several members of the Royal Household, attended a private service held on Sunday at the Villa Mottet, the Rev. D. L. M'Anally, secretary of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, officiating. Her Majesty drove out in the afternoon, attended by Lady Churchill.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice go almost daily to the Park Marlioz, which is closed to the public during the time that the Royal visitors are in it. All possible measures have been taken to insure the comfort and safety of the Queen. Her Majesty receives a large number of telegrams, and a special office has been established to enable them to be delivered with rapidity. It is stated that the Harmonie Nantique, the best band which Geneva possesses, is going to Aix-les-Bains to perform a serenade as a mark of respect for the Sovereign of England.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Many inquiries having been made as to what series of bonds are entitled to be converted under the notice relative to the conversion of New Zealand Government Five per Cent. Consols, we are requested to inform holders that all New Zealand Government Bonds in respect of which the payment of interest is made quarterly, form part of those known as the New Zealand Five per Cent. Consols, and can be converted.

The Chief Constable of Denbighshire, at the Quarter Sessions held on Thursday, read a special report he had prepared on the operation of the Sunday Closing Act in Wales. The Act came into force in October, 1882, and the Chief Constable regretted to say that in Denbigh there had been an increase of general drunkenness on Sunday. A new offence had sprung up—viz., that of selling cigars without a licence, for which a number of persons had been proceeded against. The number of persons seen under the influence of drink on Sundays, if not actually drunk, was very large.

A meeting was held on Thursday at Stratford-on-Avon to sanction an application for a faculty from the Bishop's Court for the restoration of the parish church, the burial-place of Shakespeare. The meeting was largely attended, and after some discussion the churchwardens were authorised to apply for a faculty forthwith, so as to enable the works to be commenced without further delay. A vestry is to be built, occupying the site of the ancient Priest's Charity erected in the fourteenth century.

The remains of the late Miss Duthie, of Ruthrieston, the lady who gave a public park to Aberdeen, at a cost of sixty thousand pounds, were interred last week in the old City Churchyard. The funeral was a public one, and representatives attended from most of the public bodies. The shops were closed along the route, and the town bell rang a funeral knell. The coffin, which was of oak, with silver mountings, was covered with floral wreaths sent from Kintail, Kinloch, and other places. The deceased left forty thousand pounds to be divided amongst her friends, and bequeathed the following sums to public institutions:—The Royal Infirmary, £2,000; the Aberdeen University, for two medical scholarships, £2,000; towards the maintenance of the Duthie Park, £2,000; towards the formation of the carriage-drive along the River Dee, £1,000; the Hospital for Incurables, £500; the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, £500; the General Dispensary, £500; the Lying-in Institution, £500; the Asylum for the Blind, £500; the Society for Relief of the Poor £500; and the Hospital for Sick Children, £500.

The arrangement by which England acquires a coaling-station at Port Hamilton, in the island of Quelpart, was (the *Times* says) the last public service rendered to his country by Sir Harry Parkes. It was at first believed that the arrangement entailed our annexation of "the huge cone-like island of Quelpart;" but the fact is simply that we have acquired a coaling-station for our ships in the North Pacific, similar to that already existing at Labuan. The want of such a station has long been felt, and no better place could have been selected than Port Hamilton, the only advantageous anchorage and shelter for ships around the stormy coasts of Quelpart. This arrangement will attract some attention to this island, and the following description of its position and character may prove useful as well as interesting at the present time:—"The island of Quelpart, which lies sixty miles distant from the southern coast of Corea, and commands the straits between that peninsula and Kiushiu, the southern island of Japan, has been termed 'the Sicily of the Italy of the East.' The comparison is not inappropriate. Local tradition still preserves the memory of its origin, as the myth which forms part of the superstitious creed of the people bears out the natural supposition as to its having been created by the action of a submarine volcano. The island is about forty miles in length and at its widest point seventeen miles broad. It is well populated, and is under close and careful cultivation. Moreover, the scenery provided by its dense woods and lofty peaks is exceedingly beautiful, and the white rocks of Mount Auckland, or, as the natives call it, Aula, the highest point in the island, 6,500ft., wear the appearance of being covered with perpetual snow. The forest consists of pines and a tree giving a red wood resembling mahogany. There are large herds of cattle, and numerous horses of a small breed, which are in great demand on the mainland. Quelpart produces numerous cereals, and the islanders also follow the pursuit of fishermen. An active and flourishing industry is also provided by the manufacture of straw-plaited hats which are in general use throughout Corea. Quelpart has been frequently used as a penal station by the Corean Government, and therefore it is not surprising that the islanders should have had an evil reputation. Their ferocity and animosity to foreigners appear to have been exaggerated, or perhaps their remarkable material prosperity has toned down their faults. By obtaining this advantageous coaling-station there can be no doubt that the Government have taken a wise step towards the further security of our naval position in the seas of China and Japan.

Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild has kindly consented to preside at the Anniversary Festival of the Metropolitan Free Hospital, at Willis's Rooms, on Thursday, May 21.

Why does not some modern Gutenberg do for the phonograph what has been already done for the printing press? is the question asked by a writer in the new number of the *Nineteenth Century*. To stop short at the phonograph and not go on to invent a reading machine whereby books should be printed upon cylinders of metal, would be as if the age of Furst and Gutenberg had remained content with immovable types. The written word has already been made immortal, and the world has been half revolutionised thereby: it only now remains to complete the revolution by giving immortality to the spoken word as well. The metal cylinders might be worn in the hat, and the sounds be conveyed to the ear by wires. There would be no more cases of blinded eyesight from poring over miserable books; the old quarrel between physical and intellectual development would disappear, for "the good genius of humanity" in his metal box would accompany men to the moor and the fields and the ditch. The weary learning of an unphonetic written language could be neglected, and precious years of our lives would be saved from waste. Foreign languages would be learned with far greater ease, for whatever a book was there the spoken language would be. The political consequences of the invention are passed over by the writer, but it would be clearly most important. For one thing, the necessity for a representative Parliament would disappear, and direct government by the people would once more become possible.

Many a church and chapel-of-ease in remote country places is ill-provided with a suitable organ or other musical instrument; but this drawback ought no longer to exist, as Messrs. Geo. Wight and Co., 143, Holborn-bars, supply the Celestina, an elegant little instrument of moderate price and powerful tone. It plays a most varied selection of sacred music, and is superior to all other instruments of the kind, on account of its good tone and the cheapness of the music rolls. The Aurephone supplied by Messrs. Wight is also an excellent instrument.

The Volunteer Review at Brighton on Monday passed off better than was expected after the rain of the early morning. The weather had brightened before a quarter to twelve, when the march past on the Downs took place before the Duke of Cambridge; the 18,000 men passing in five minutes under an hour. Thousands of people flocked to the racecourse to witness the march past. The various regiments were arranged in three divisions, the several brigades of which moved up to the saluting-point in mass of quarter-column, preceded by the massed bands of the corps composing them. After the review, with which the Duke of Cambridge expressed himself much pleased, the troops proceeded at once to the positions assigned to them for the sham fight. The invaders, whose force of 8,000 held a strong position between Wick Farm and New Market Hill, and who were supposed to be on the defensive, made a gallant fight against the home contingent; but the numerical strength of the latter—an army of 11,000 men—told in the end, and both flanks of the invaders having been turned, the umpires held that their fate was strategically sealed. The fight lasted for an hour and a-quarter. General Fielding commanded the manœuvres which took place on the hills eastward of Dover Castle. Between five and six thousand volunteers and regulars, including a considerable proportion of artillery, were engaged, the attacking force being the more numerous. The sham fight, which was of an interesting nature, was based on the idea that an enemy had landed at Pegwell Bay, and was marching on Canterbury and Chatham. The attacking force was commanded by Colonel Tredennick, 1st Middlesex Regiment. The operations were watched by a large number of people, and proved to be very interesting, the system of army signalling being carried out with great precision. The attacking force, who started from a village called Martin, were in such strength that, after a fierce musketry and artillery fire, they turned both flanks of the defenders and occupied Guston, which was the then key of the situation. The forts, however, opened fire and drove the invaders out, and Guston was again occupied by the defenders. A march-past followed.

The Easter Monday Bank Holiday was enjoyed by an enormous number of persons in London, with milder weather and an absence of the cutting winds of the previous days. The various places of entertainment and the public institutions were crowded, while there was no lack of recreation in the parks and open spaces. Greenwich-park, Blackheath, Hampstead, and Epping Forest were visited by thousands. At the Crystal Palace nearly 62,000 visitors passed the turnstiles, while at the Alexandra Palace the proportion of holiday-makers was equally great. Hampton Court attracted 35,000, Kew Gardens 30,000. and the Zoological Gardens 27,500. The recent purchases for the National Gallery had not the effect which might have been expected in increasing the number of visitors to that choice collection of valuable pictures. Last Easter Monday the Gallery was visited by 18,150, and this year by 16,550 persons. The British Museum had a slight increase. The number on Monday were 8,573; last Easter Monday 8,205. At South Kensington Museum the number of visitors at 6 p.m. was 21,523. On Easter Monday, 1884, it was 22,971, showing a decrease, and the diminution is still larger if the comparison be made with 1883. Over 20,000 visited the Natural History Museum. Special arrangements were made by all the great railway companies for cheap and attractive trips.

The Right Rev. Robert Aston Coffin, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Southwark, died at an early hour on Monday morning at Teignmouth, Devonshire, after an illness which had long been expected to prove fatal. Dr. Coffin was born at Brighton on July 19, 1819, and was educated at Harrow School. He passed thence to Christ Church, Oxford, of which he was for some years a student, and where he took his Bachelor's degree in Michaelmas Term, 1840, obtaining Honours in the Classical Schools. Having been ordained deacon and priest by the Bishop of Oxford (Dr. Bagot), he was appointed Vicar of St. Mary Magdalen's Church, Oxford, in 1843, but threw up his living some two years afterwards, when he was received into the Roman Catholic Church, about the same time as Dr. (now Cardinal) Newman, whom he shortly afterwards accompanied to Rome. He was ordained a priest in the Church of his adoption in 1847, and joined the Redemptorist Order. For some years he was "rector" of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church at Clapham, and at the same time "provincial" of his Order in England. He translated and edited in an English form a considerable portion of the theological and devotional writings of the founder of the Redemptorists, St. Alfonso di Liguori. In 1881-2, on the death of Dr. Danell, he was nominated by the Pope to the "See" of Southwark, to which he was formally consecrated in the Church of St. Alfonso at Rome, the officiating prelate being Cardinal Howard. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Southwark formerly exercised spiritual jurisdiction over Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Berkshire, Hampshire, and the Channel Islands; but in May, 1882, the three last-named portions were cut off from the see, and erected by the Pope into a separate "Bishopric of Portsmouth." Dr. Coffin was a man of very ascetic habits, and never took an active part in the theological or political controversies of the time.

The principal illuminations and decorations in Ireland in honour of the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales have, we understand, been entrusted to the well-known firm of J. Defries and Sons, of Hounsditch, London. It is stated that in Belfast an extensive and magnificent display of crystal illuminations and street decorations is being prepared by this firm, which will far surpass anything of the kind previously attempted.

A few weeks ago an election took place at Normanby of members for the local School Board. Among the candidates was George Jubb, an agricultural labourer, living at Ormby, in the School Board district. The farm labourers voted for Jubb, who was elected. The four elected farmers thereupon took umbrage, and refused to sit with him. They resigned, and the School Board business was brought to a deadlock. On the facts being reported to the Education Department, an order was sent down to Jubb giving him full power, as the surviving member, to appoint four members in the place of those who had resigned. Last week Jubb called the electors together, when four working men were selected and appointed. The result is that all the members of the School Board are now working men, and the farmers will have to stand by for the space of three years, and submit to the arrangements the new Board makes for carrying on the educational work of the district.

The sixteenth annual conference of the National Union of Elementary Teachers was opened at Norwich on Monday. Mr. Greenwood, the retiring president, in acknowledging a vote of thanks for his services, said he was much gratified with the general progress of education. An additional £300,000 per annum for educational purposes had just been granted by the House of Commons ungrudgingly—in fact, almost as freely as if it had been proposed for the Army and Navy. Mr. R. Wild, headmaster of the Byron and Bright-street school, under the management of the School Board for London, was then introduced as the president-elect, and proceeded to deliver his inaugural address. He began by referring to what he termed the "overpressure agitation," and said that overpressure was the inevitable consequence of the system of payment by results. It was absolutely impossible that the education of the country could be at all true friends would like to see it until it was administered in an educational spirit instead of upon almost wholly pecuniary principles. He found, from personal investigation, that school hours in Holland were from 9 till 12 and from 2 to 4, with Wednesday and Saturday half-holidays, leaving 26 hours' teaching per week. In Saxony they were from 7 to 11 in summer, and from 8 to 12 in winter, with two hours in the afternoon, making altogether 32 hours per week. The figures referred, however, solely to the higher class of scholars; younger children had much shorter hours. In Berlin school hours were from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., or five hours daily, with two pauses of fifteen minutes each at 10 and 12 o'clock, and at 1 all work was done for the day. This gave 30 hours weekly, but teachers never worked more than 28 hours, and in cases of illness a teacher was allowed to send for a substitute. If a teacher were ill his salary was continued to him for one year, but no longer. If, however, he could manage to return and work for a short time, a minimum of 14 days, he might then be continued on the sick list for another year. In short, the whole system abroad was purely educational and not in the slightest degree pecuniary. Nowhere did he find a single penny depending on any examination; nowhere did he find anything like the English system of individual examination; nowhere did he find any but adult-trained teachers; nowhere did he find any striving after percentages or after that miraculous accuracy to obtain which cost English teachers and English scholars so much weariness and painfulness; and nowhere did he find any signs of worry and anxiety. Everywhere, on the contrary, he found the most absolute freedom from classification left to the teachers, and everywhere he found work being done regularly, zealously, and conscientiously. The annual report of the executive was received and adopted, and the treasurer's report and balance-sheet were approved, and the officers and executive of the Union having been formally thanked for their services the conference adjourned. The Conference was continued on Tuesday, when Mr. T. E. Heller, general secretary of the Union, read a paper on "The Training of Teachers," in which he argued that the pupil-teacher system should be modified so as to postpone the commencement of the engagement of pupil teachers to the age of 16 or 17. A short term of two or three years of apprenticeship should then be arranged, during which provision should be made for proper continuance of the pupil teachers' studies for the acquirement of the practice of teaching. The curriculum for the entrance examination and during the term of engagement should be such as to enable young teachers at the end of it to pass the entrance examinations of the universities or some equivalent examination. The examination for admission to the normal school should be brought into line with the matriculation examinations of the universities, but might be dispensed with in the case of persons who had passed the latter, and could show that they had sufficient knowledge of school management, and some proficiency in the art of teaching. The curriculum of the training college should be modified, and should be such as to carry on the student more and more to the ultimate goal of a university career. He considered that the social position of teachers was now sufficiently valued and their prospects sufficiently attractive to render the continuation of money subsidies to some extent unnecessary. Several questions of interest were afterwards discussed at some length, and in the evening the annual dinner took place. On Wednesday Mrs. Burgwin (Southwark) read a paper on "Overpressure," which she described as work against time to secure payment by results—a system injurious to teachers and torture to children, who were made disgusted with learning. She would sweep away all grants with conditions, for education should not be hurried. A resolution was adopted to petition Parliament to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the existence, causes, and extent of overpressure. A departmental inquiry would not be satisfactory.

While the School Board is busy looking after the educational requirements of the rising generation, Mr. Bradly Barnard, of 107, St. Paul's-road, Highbury, is no less energetic in his efforts to supply the means whereby the health of our little ones may be as much as possible promoted. With this object he has patented the Folding Hammock Bassinette, which has already secured several prize medals, and has been most highly commended by many prominent and well-known members of the medical profession. Comfort, one of the first essentials in all that pertains to infantile life, is studied to the utmost in Mr. Barnard's splendid invention; for the child in lying is kept in the position that is most comfortable to it, and is more easily prevented from getting uncovered and exposed to the cold. Those who deem the external qualities of beauty and good taste essential will find their requirements fully satisfied in these elegant and commodious little beds, the convenience and graceful appearance of which place them at once very far above the old-fashioned rocker cradle. Another important consideration is this, that while in the old-fashioned cradle the infant is exposed to all the floor draught, in those of which we are speaking the bed is raised to a convenient height, suspended between four lance or other elastic wood supports, and is, therefore, completely out of the reach of those draughts, which have not unfrequently proved most injurious to the health of the infant. These bassinettes are made of various materials, from the chintz and mosquito net to the finest Swiss muslin, while the construction of all the parts is so simple that no harbour is afforded for anything to disturb the little sleeper. It not unfrequently happens that patent articles of the greatest utility are placed by a too prohibitive price far above the means of the ordinary buyer. Not so in this case, for they can be purchased at an exceedingly moderate price, and are fairly within the reach of all.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—The aggregate number of patients relieved during the week ending April 4 was—medical 388, surgical 175; total 563, of which 276 were new cases.

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And breath of odorous spring."

SPINNER'S TEA.—A company of merchants are now selling through Spinner & Co. the choicest tea that comes from India and China at 2s. 8d. a pound, in packets only. This is the perfection of tea, and will please the most fastidious.—Agents wanted in everytown and village. For terms, apply to Spinner & Co., 60, Strand, London.—SPINNER & CO., London and Liverpool.

THROAT IRRITATION AND COUGH.—Soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes, 7½d., tins 1s 1½d., labelled, "JAMES EPPS AND CO., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Dr. George Moore, in his work on "Nose and Throat Diseases," says: "The Glycerine Jujubes prepared by James Epps and Co. are of undoubted service as a curative or palliative agent." While Dr. Gordon Holmes, Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary, writes: "After an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit (with or without medical treatment) in almost all forms of throat disease."

"They come as a boon and a blessing to men,
The Pickwick, the Owl, and the Waverley Pen."
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BIRTHS.

March 29 (Palm Sunday), at Horsham, Sussex, the wife of the Rev. R. M. ROSSETER, of a daughter.

April 2, at 22, Charles-street, Berkeley-square, the wife of the Hon. A. E. GATHORNE HARDY, of a daughter, stillborn.

April 2, at Holy Trinity Vicarage, Aldershot, the wife of the Rev. J. L. G. HADOW, of a daughter.

April 3, at Boulogne-sur-Mer, the wife of the Rev. EDWARD R. PARR, M.A., British Chaplain, of a daughter.

April 3, at The College, Ely, the wife of Canon KIRKPATRICK, of a son.

April 4, the wife of the Rev. G. W. de COURCY-BALDWIN, Principal of York Training College, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

April 7, at Llanrug Church, JAMES GARDINER, eldest son of JAMES HAMILTON, to FANNY ELIZABETH, eldest daughter of W. DEW, J.P., Brynbras Castle, Carnarvon.

April 7, at St. Mary's Church, Florence, MEYRICK W. HEATH, second son of the Rev. W. M. Heath, Rector of Lytchett Matravers, Dorset, to KATHARINE ROSE, youngest daughter of the Rev. J. MANSFIELD, late Rector of Blandford St. Mary, Dorset.

April 7, at St. John's, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, Commander EDWARD PAYNE, R.N., Inspecting Commander Coastguard, Queenstown, eldest son of the Rev. Richard Payne, Canon of Sarum, to MARY LOUISA ANNE, daughter of the late Rev. GILBERT HEATHCOTE, of Northfield, Ryde, and late Vicar of Colerne, Wilts.

April 8, at Marylebone Presbyterian Church, Upper George-street, WILLIAM PETERSON, M.A., LL.D., Principal of University College, Dundee, to LISA, daughter of WILLIAM ROSS, of 31, Norfolk-square, Hyde-park.

DEATHS.

March 10, the Count CAROLUS VON LANGA, son of the late Count DE LANGLIR (Captain of Horse) and the Countess KUNIGUNDE VON MIRZKAITIELEZEWSKY, of Navara.

April 2, at Surrey Lodge, Ryde, Isle of Wight, General Sir JAMES EDWARD ALEXANDER, Kt., C.B., of Westerton, Bridge of Allan, N.B.

April 3, at Lausanne, Switzerland, EMMA CAROLINE, wife of the Rev. J. A. CROZIER, M.A., Rector of Mundesley, county of Norfolk, in her 49th year.

April 3 (Good Friday), at 22, Clyde-road, Dublin, the Hon. Lady LYNCH-BLOSSE, in her 86th year.

April 4, at Lyncombe Lodge, Bath, ELLEN, widow of the late Rev. JOHN DAVID HASTINGS, Rector of Trowbridge, Wilts.

April 5, at The Crescent, Plymouth, FRANCIS ROGERS, eldest son of the late Rev. Hugh Rogers, Rector of Camborne, Cornwall, aged 68.

April 5, (Easter Day), at Campale, Beckenham, Kent, HARRIETT, widow of the Rev. JOHN NETHERTON HARWARD, M.A., in her 82nd year.

April 5, at Winton Castle, Pencaitland, the Dowager Lady RUTHVEN.

April 6 (Easter Monday), at South-crescent, Bedford-square, JOSEPH J. POPE, Esq., M.R.C.S., late Staff Surgeon Royal Artillery, aged 49.

LATEST NEWS.

Paris, April 9.

A telegram from Pekin, received at the Quai d'Orsay at six o'clock this evening, contains the official adhesion of the Tsung-li-Yamen to the preliminaries of peace signed in Paris by M. Billot on the part of France, and Mr. Campbell on the part of China. The despatch also states that the Chinese Government had issued orders for the immediate evacuation of Tonquin by the Chinese troops.

Cairo, April 9.

The Russian transports *Nostroma* and *Petersburg* have returned to Port Said, but it is believed that the order for their return to Odessa has been countermanded, and that they will re-enter the Suez Canal to-morrow.

Souakim, April 9.

A convoy, escorted by the 5th Lancers, proceeded to Handoub to-day.

An Indian Mussulman, who was captured by the rebels during the engagement at Hasheen on the 20th ultimo, has escaped and returned here. He reports that twelve other Indian camp followers are in the hands of the enemy, but that they are well treated.

Dongola, April 9.

The latest news from Kordofan states that the Mahdi sent a large force against Jebel Dair and El Obeid, but suffered a severe defeat at the latter place. His leader, however, escaped. The Mahdi announces that he will not attack Dongola until after Ramadan, three months hence.

Colonel Primrose died yesterday of enteric fever, at Abu Fatmeh. The health of General Dormer's camp is good. The sick have much improved since leaving Korti. The camp is strongly guarded, a line of picquets being established on the hills on both flanks, with supports ready to move out whenever necessary. The Hassanyeh tribe round Berti are still hostile.

The insurgents in Kordofan are stated to include some of the Mahdi's best men.

Rome, April 9.

An unusually protracted Council was held at a late hour last night at the residence of the President. All the members of the Cabinet were present. It is believed that the Foreign Minister laid before his colleagues the preliminaries of the negotiations with England respecting Italian action in Egypt.

Private information leads to the belief that the occupation of Souakim by Italy has been decided on, and very probably of Berber also.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

While negotiations have been carried on between London and St. Petersburg, and pacific assurances have been profusely disseminated, General Komaroff has struck a sudden and successful blow at the Afghan fortified position near Penjdeh, practically the last important place within the so-called debateable zone, and forced the troops of the Ameer to retreat with heavy loss. This intelligence was first announced to the British Government in a despatch from Sir Peter Lumsden's headquarters at Gulran; while Reuter's correspondent at St. Petersburg telegraped on Thursday as follows:—

"General Komaroff attacked the fortified positions of the Afghans on both banks of the Kushk river on the 30th ult. An engagement ensued, and the Afghans, whose force consisted of 4,000 men, with eight guns, were defeated and dispersed, with the loss of about 500 killed, the whole of their artillery, two standards, the entire camp and provisions. The Russians lost one Turcoman officer killed (Colonel Nikschitsch), and three subaltern officers were wounded.

"Of the Cossacks and Turcoman soldiers ten were killed and twenty-nine wounded.

"The *Official Messenger* this morning publishes the following account of the fighting on the Kushk river:—

"'General Komaroff reports that in consequence of the provocative and manifestly hostile proceedings of the Afghans he was compelled on the 30th ult. to attack their fortified positions on both banks of the Kushk river. The Afghan detachment, numbering four thousand men with eight guns, was defeated and dispersed, with the loss of five hundred killed, two standards, their whole camp, and all their artillery and provisions. The Russians had one Turcoman officer killed and Colonel Nakchitch slightly wounded. Three subaltern officers were wounded. Of the Cossacks and Turcoman soldiers ten were killed and twenty-nine wounded. When the fighting was over General Komaroff returned across the Kushk river to his former positions. When some British officers, who were eye-witnesses of the engagement but had not taken part in it, saw that the Afghans were beaten they asked the Russians for protection, but unfortunately the convoy, which was immediately despatched by General Komaroff, was unable to overtake the Afghan cavalry, who in their flight carried away the British officers with them."

The semi-official *Journal de St. Pétersbourg* on Thursday, commenting upon General Komaroff's despatch reporting the fighting on the Kushk river, says:—"The absence of precise details only permits of conjecture at present regarding the origin, character, and bearing of the conflict. The fact that General Komaroff, after having repulsed and driven away the Afghans, returned within his lines, is significant, and affords reason to suppose that the movement of the Russian troops must have been caused by hostile acts on the part of the Afghans. On this supposition, the affair can only be regarded as an accidental conflict difficult to avoid in a situation so uncertain and strained, considering the proximity of the two parties. We may, therefore, entertain the hope that it will in no way modify the negotiations being carried on between the two Governments. We are happy to be able to add that, according to information from a British source, the British officers mentioned in General Komaroff's despatch have safely reached Afghan territory."

The Prime Minister, Earl Granville, and other members of the Cabinet came to town early in the day, and the Cabinet sat for more than two hours and a-half considering the question in all its aspects. During the sitting of the Cabinet frequent telegraphic despatches were sent to Sir Peter Lumsden in the hope that they would get through to him, and messengers bearing sealed boxes containing despatches continuously arrived at the Council from the India and Foreign Offices. The India Office had been early in communication with the War Office.

When the House of Commons met after the Easter recess Mr. Gladstone, in reply to Sir Stafford Northcote, at once made known the facts so far as they are in the possession of Ministers and the Premier, that the answer of the Russian Government, which arrived on Thursday last, did not appear to the Cabinet to advance the question towards a conclusion, but since that period, and within the last twenty-four hours, another communication had been received from the Russian Government which placed the matter in a more hopeful position, but it was impossible for him to make any further statement in respect to the negotiations in the present very rudimentary and incomplete state of the communications. As to the very grave occurrence which had just taken place, it was admitted in the first place that the attack was made on the Afghans by the Russians, and that the Afghans were defeated. The Russian allegations were mainly that they attacked the Afghans after having been provoked by acts of hostility, the nature of which was not stated, and that when the fighting was over they retired, according to one account, to their previous positions, and according to another to the left bank of the Kushk. It was also stated that English officers were directing the Afghans without taking part in the action, and that the Russian commander sent an escort to protect the English officers, who, however, had left the ground when the escort arrived there. The date of the engagement was the 30th of March, and the full statement only reached Lord Granville that morning. According to the statement of Sir P. Lumsden, which was of course credited by Her Majesty's Government, no forward movement of any kind was made by the Afghans before or since the 17th of March, and, notwithstanding the assurances given by the Russian Government, the Russian army was drawn up almost within range of the Afghan position, though the Afghans had neither attacked nor advanced, and Penjdeh was perfectly quiet. Every endeavour had been made by the Russians to induce the Afghans to begin the fighting. Twice their troops had attempted forcibly to pass through the Afghan posts. Captain Yate, on failure of the last attempt, met the chief of the Russian staff by appointment, and was assured by him that the arrangement of the 17th of March with regard to non-advance had not been received. He also declined to give an assurance that the Afghans should not be attacked without previous notice, and claimed the right to turn out the Afghan posts whenever they might be found inconvenient, without reference to a third party. On the 29th of March Captain Yate was desired by Sir Peter Lumsden to see the Russian commander and endeavour to affect an amicable arrangement if possible. On the 7th of April Her Majesty's Government were informed that down to the 30th of March the Afghans had made no forward movement, and that on that day the Russians attacked and defeated them and occupied Penjdeh. The Afghans were said to have fought gallantly, two companies of them being killed to a man in the entrenchments. The House would not be surprised when he said that the attack had the appearance of being of an unprovoked character. Her Majesty's Government had asked for explanations from the Russian Government, but there had not yet been time to receive the replies. They would endeavour to arrive at a just conclusion on the facts, and he might say that the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg had already telegraphed that the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Emperor had expressed an earnest hope that this unhappy incident might not prevent the continuance of the negotiations.

In the House of Commons last evening, Sir S. Northcote asked whether the Government had any further information to communicate to the House in regard to the occurrences in Afghanistan.

Mr. Gladstone: My reply must be very brief. It takes up the matter where I left it yesterday, where I said we had made reference to St. Petersburg, with a view to obtain explanations of the facts, and whatever else might fall from the Russian Government. I also said there had not then been time to receive a reply. A reply was received in the course of yesterday evening, and it is to the effect, as I think might not unnaturally be expected, that the Russian Government had already called upon General Komaroff to give explanations of his conduct. The use of the word "already" may be subject to a certain ambiguity, but I am inclined to construe it as meaning that he had been called upon to give explanations before Sir Edward Thornton entered into communication with M. de Giers. At the same time M. de Giers repeated his statement that the Russian troops did not occupy Penjdeh, but retired to their former positions.

Sir S. Northcote: Can the right hon. gentleman say how long it will take the Russian Government to receive explanations from General Komaroff?

Mr. Gladstone (after conferring with Lord E. Fitzmaurice): I do not know that we are in possession of precise information on that point. We are instructed that from the point reached by the Russian telegraph a distance of 120 miles has to be covered by express, which would require two days for the journey one way.

To further questions, Mr. Gladstone said the Government had heard that the news of events on the Kushk had reached Rawul Pindi, where the Viceroy of India now is; but there had been no communition received from the Viceroy.

Sir G. Campbell asked if the Government had precise information as to what was the former position of the Russian forces to which they were said to have retired.

Mr. Gladstone: I think I have given to the House all the information we have. (Hear, hear.) It is in the first place incomplete, and in the second place it is not perfectly clear. But we have taken measures to obtain more consecutive and complete information. We have received no later communication from Sir P. Lumsden.

The *Daily News* publishes an important letter from its correspondent at Meshed, dated the 7th of March, describing the Russian encroachments on Afghan territory since the 1st of November:—

"That was about the date when the Cossack pickets were advanced from Sarakhs to Pul-i-Khatun. At the same date there were rumours of the advance southwards of Russian soldiers aloug the Murghab, and on other points of importance. This advance really covered the ground on which Sir Peter Lumsden had been sent out to arrange the boundary upon. The Russian proposal, as it was understood—and I believe that the words have been in print—was that the frontier line was to be 'from Khojah Saleh, on the Indus, to the Persian frontier in the neighbourhood of Sarakhs.' When the English Commission arrived on the Heri Rud the Russian troops had been thrown out to Pul-i-Khatun, over forty miles south of 'the neighbourhood of Sarakhs.' They had been sent there only a few days before Sir Peter Lumsden's arrival. These soldiers stood on the ground to which the English Commission had been invited in the name of the Russian Government to lay down the frontier line. General Komaroff by this act virtually said, Keep off this territory, it is Russian soil. It would be very difficult to conceive how a greater piece of insolence could have been perpetrated. It was treating Sir Peter Lumsden with contempt, as well as the British nation. General Komaroff, or Colonel Alikhanoff under his orders, kept up a state of excitement along the ground, but more particularly with the Turkomans, on the Murghab, during the months that followed. Instead of retiring from this advanced line of occupation, the Russian troops have been still more advanced to the southward. From Pul-i-Khatun the pickets were thrown forward some time ago to the Zulficar Pass, which is nearly thirty miles south of Pul-i-Khatun; this is on the Heri Rud, and leaves only another pass, called the Nialsheni, which is through some low-lying sand-hills, and then there is the great plain extending past Kushan to Herat, on which a cab could be driven all the way, for there is not an obstacle on the ground. The distance is only a little over a hundred miles. From Zulficar, putting it according to the best authorities, it would be at most about one hundred and thirty miles to Herat. This is the position which the Russians have now taken up on the Heri Rud. On the Murghab they have advanced as far south as the Pul-i-Khisti, which is at the junction of the Kushk and the Murghab, and about six or seven miles from Penjdeh. There are also rumours that they have been advancing at points between the Heri Rud and the Murghab, but it is difficult to get reliable information."

These movements by the Russians (the correspondent adds) have caused great excitement among the Afghans.

"They see what has been understood as Afghan soil encroached upon, and there has been some difficulty in keeping them from fighting. Here comes a very important point in regard to this boundary question. If our Government allows the Russians to annex Afghan territory, instead of making the Ameer and his people our friends, we shall give them fair cause of complaint; we should change the good feeling which has lately been established, and turn the Afghans into our most bitter foes. This may be one of the objects which the Russians have in view in their encroachments on Afghanistan. By occupying the ground in the face of the British Commission, they are showing off, as they think, to advantage. They are proving to the Afghans how great is the Russian Czar and his troops in comparison with the British. The Russian does as he likes, and Sir Peter Lumsden and the English Commission can only look on and do nothing. The principal performer in these Russian advances, more particularly on the Murghab, is Colonel Alikhanoff, now Governor of Merv.

We learn from an official source that the Afghans were in full military occupation of Penjdeh in the middle of June; that in September the Russians, with knowledge of this fact, appointed their Commissioner, General Zelenoy, to meet Sir Peter Lumsden in the middle of October to carry out the work of delimitation of frontier; that Sir Peter Lumsden on his way to Afghanistan called at Tiflis to see General Zelenoy; and that although the Russians objected to the Afghan occupation of Penjdeh, that was not then, nor until the middle of last month, made a reason why the Russian Commissioner did not begin his duties.

The postponement of the Budget from Thursday to Thursday week was a step taken after the receipt of the despatches from Sir Peter Lumsden. In the event of war the Budget at present contemplated would necessarily take a different form.

SOCIETY.

A marriage will take place on the 22nd inst., between Mr. R. S. Whymper Barthropp, son of the late Mr. N. G. Barthropp, of Hacheston, Suffolk, and Miss Helen Holt Beever, younger daughter of the Rev. W. Holt Beever, of Pencraig Court, Ross, rector of Marstow and Pencoyd, Herefordshire, and Canon of Llandaff.

A marriage is arranged and will take place shortly between Miss Ethel Gibson, daughter of the late Mr. J. Boydell Gibson, of The Daisons, Torquay, and Mr. W. H. New, Her Majesty's Consul in Siam.

The marriage of Mr. Robert Comyns Eames, of Newmarket, county Cork, with Rosabelle Mary, third surviving daughter of the late Mr. T. Beverley Hall, of Brighton, was celebrated at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, on Tuesday last. The wedding party, owing to the recent death of the bride's father, was restricted to the nearest relatives of the contracting couple. The bride was handsomely attired in train and bodice of rich white satin, the petticoat being brocaded with velvet flowers, and finished with long loops of white satin ribbon. The ample square train was cut in deep scallops, under which was a thick quilting of lace; and the bodice was trimmed with sprays of orange blossoms. She wore two or three tiny sprays of the same flowers in her hair, covered by a tulle veil, which was fastened with diamonds. She was attended by only one bridesmaid, who was dressed in white satin surat, the tablier being inserted and edged with wide lace, and wore a white straw bonnet trimmed with satin, white feathers, and a violet osprey, which corresponded with her bouquet, composed of violet and white flowers. The Ven. Archdeacon Farrar, D.D., rector of St. Margaret's, and chaplain in ordinary to the Queen, officiated, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Edwd. Ker Gray, vicar of St. Michael and All Angels, North Kensington. After the ceremony the bridal party drove off to the Buckingham Palace Hotel, Buckingham-gate, where the wedding breakfast was given, after which the newly-married conple started on their wedding tour.

The marriage of Mr. James Ferguson, of Kinmundy, to Miss Agnew, daughter of Captain Y. de Courcy Agnew, R.N., and granddaughter of the late Sir Andrew Agnew, Bart., M.P., of Lochmair, Wigtonshire, took place recently at Oxford-terrace, Edinburgh, the residence of the bride's father. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. Dr. Alexander Whyte, Free St. George's, Edinburgh. Lieutenant-Colonel Dingwall Fordyce was best man, and there were four bridesmaids. The bride was given away by her father, Captain Agnew. Her dress was a cream duchesse satin, trimmed with old Brussels lace; the wreath and bouquet were composed of tuberoses and gardenias, with myrtle and orange blossoms, and the veil was of Brussels lace. The bridesmaids were attired in white vicuna serge, trimmed with narrow gold braid, the bodices having narrow waistcoats of the same material. They each wore gold brooches, in the form of a small rock-rose surrounded with leaves and buds. The flower is the Ferguson badge. They were the gift of the bridegroom. Their bouquets, which were tied with bows of Ferguson tartan ribbon, were the gifts of Lady Emma M'Neil, of Burnhead. The bride's travelling dress was a brown cloth, with jacket to match, trimmed with braid; and the hat a brown straw, with feather and aigrette. The presents numbered over 200. In honour of the marriage rejoicings took place at Kinmundy.

On Tuesday, the 7th, at Little Torrington, N. Devon, was celebrated the marriage of J. J. Gardiner, Esq., with Miss Lucy Carterette Stevens Guille, fourth daughter of the rector. The village was gaily decorated with arches and flags. The service, which was choral, was performed by the Rev. J. H. More Stevens (cousin of the bride), assisted by the Revs. W. Tute and E. Reynolds. The bride was given away by her father, and wore a handsome train of cream brocade, over flounces of Brussels lace and gold ornaments. Her three sisters followed her, and were dressed in cream canvas and lace, with pale blue "Liberty" caps, tan gloves and shoes, and each carried a fan of shaded wallflowers, tied with blue ribbons, which, with gold bangles, were the gift of the bridegroom. The guests included Mr. and Mrs. Moore-Stevens, Miss Guille, Miss E. Guille, Miss Gardiner, Mrs. Cory (in green plush), Master Cory, Mrs. Colby, who wore ruby satin, the Rev. F. T. Colby, D.D., Capt. Le Cocq, R.N., Mrs. Le Cocq (in striped electric-blue velvet), H. G. de C. Guille, Esq., H. Guille, Esq., Royal Artillery, Capt. and Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Tute, &c. The numerous and handsome gifts, including presentations from the choir, school-children, and parishioners, were inspected later in the day by several of the principal inhabitants of the village, who were entertained at tea after the departure of the bride and bridegroom.

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Printed by E. D. Maddick and Co., 1, Crane-court, Fleet-street, and Published for the Proprietors by E. D. Maddick, at the Office, No. 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street.—Saturday, April 11, 1885.